Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-157
Wednesday
14 August 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-157 14 August 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interview on Mideast Peace Process *[Paris LE FIGARO 12 Aug]* 1
Palestinian Leaders Attend PFLP-GC Ceremony 2
Jibril Assails PLO Leadership *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
Further on Graduation Ceremony *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
U.S. To Receive Delegates' Names 'This Week' *[AL-MANAR 12 Aug]* 4
Further Reaction to Peace Conference Proposal 5
PFLP's Habash Urges Boycott *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 5
DFLP Asserts PLO Representation *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Aug]* 5
3 Palestinian Figures Comment *[AL-FAJR 12 Aug]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Mauritania

40 Injured After Police Break Up Demonstration *[London International]* 8

Morocco

King Hassan Receives al-Qadhdhafi Invitation *[JANA]* 8
Opposition Statement on Sahara Issues *[Algiers Radio]* 8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Minister Views Egypt Ties, Peace Conference *[MENA]* 9
TV Programs Slated for Beaming Via Satellite *[KUNA]* 9

IRAQ

French Bill Said 'Link' in 'Chain of Aggression' *[INA]* 10
Jordanian Minister Rejects French Draft *[AL-JUMHURIYAH AL-USBU'I 12 Aug]* 10
Papers Stress Rejection of French Draft *[INA]* 10
Saddam Husayn Receives Kurdish Leader Barzani *[INA]* 11
'Positive' Meeting *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 11
Paper Reveals Iran, Turkey Ambitions in Iraq *[MENA]* 12
Communist Leader Discusses Kurdish Issue *[Paris LE MONDE 9 Aug]* 12
Kurds, Government Discuss Situation in Karkuk *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 13
Further on Talks *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 13
Steps To Restore Order in al-Sulaymaniyah Viewed *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 13
Attack on Regime Forces in Diyala Reported *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 13
Opposition Reports Attack on Saddam's Daughter *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Kurdish Radio Deplores Turkish Attacks *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 14
'Hypocrisy' Over Turkey's Kurdish Policy Noted *[INA]* 14
Turkey Charged With Exploiting Water Issue *[INA]* 15
Labor Minister, Jordanian Counterpart Meet *[INA]* 15
Gas Separator Unit in Al-Rumaylah Inaugurated *[INA]* 15
Shi'ites Killed in Riots Granted Martyr Status *[Baghdad Radio]* 15

Foreign Minister Meets European Parliament Member *[INA]* 16
Food Importers Exempted From Tax for 1 Year *[Baghdad Radio]* 16
Command Council Starts 'Baghdad Stock Exchange' *[Baghdad Radio]* 16
MENA Reports UN Team Work in Baghdad 16

ISRAEL

Readiness for Two-Phased Hostage Deal Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
Team To Convey Flexible Position *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Defense Spokesman on Jibril Remark *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Denies Report on Freeing of 'Ubayd *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Shamir Aide on Freeing Detainees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Comment Sees Bias in Calls for Israeli Gestures *[MA'ARIV 13 Aug]* 18
No Agreement on Delegation as Week's Talks End *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Aug]* 18
Outrage at U.S. Talk of Self-Determination *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Aug]* 19
Palestinians Accuse IDF of Deliberate Killings *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 19
Palestinian Party Leader Refused Travel Permit *[HA'ARETZ 13 Aug]* 20
Trial Launch of Barak Missile Set 'Soon' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Aug]* 20
Shamir—Golan Remains Integral Part of Country *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
UNIFIL Men Wounded in South Lebanon Blast *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Aug]* 20
SLA Soldier Killed by Bomb North of Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Sources Say No Official Soviet Appeal for Ties *[HADASHOT 11 Aug]* 21
Soviets Agree to Direct Flights *[MA'ARIV 13 Aug]* 21
Labor Party Delegation Meets PRC Officials *[MA'ARIV 13 Aug]* 21
Taiwan Exhibit 'First Public Admission' of Ties *[HA'ARETZ 12 Aug]* 21
Poll Shows Support for Nuclear Arms, Transfer *[MA'ARIV 14 Aug]* 22
New Foreign Ministry Department on Disarmament *[MA'ARIV 11 Aug]* 22

JORDAN

Foreign Minister on Attendance at Conference *[AL-RAY 14 Aug]* 23
Al-Masri Views Peace Process, Domestic Issues *[Amman TV]* 23
Editorial: No Choice But To Join Peace Process *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 27

LEBANON

Reportage on Hostage Situation Developments 29
Foreign Minister Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Official Denies Accord *[AFP]* 29
Hizballah on Israeli Captives *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Fadlallah Receives UK Message *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 29
Fadlallah Demands Hostage Release *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Germans 'Not Included' in 'Imminent' Exchange *[Hamburg DPA]* 29
Hizballah on Conference, Cooperation With Iran *[Tehran Radio]* 30
Defense Minister Orders Additional Deployment *[VOM]* 30
Resistance Claims Bomb Attacks in South *[VOM]* 30
'No Other' Westerners Freed Until Israel Acts *[Beirut Radio]* 30
Karami on Election Pledge, Hostage Issue *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Aug]* 30

SYRIA

Israel Supporters Urged To Adopt 'New Stance' *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Further on Indonesian Foreign Minister's Visit 32
Meets President al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Concludes Visit, Departs *[SANA]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rebels, Soviets Agree To Respect Border *[AFP]* 33

Reportage on Launched Rocket Attack on Kabul 33
21 Killed, 34 Wounded *[BAKHTAR]* 33
Defense Mininstry Area Hit, 30 Dead *[AFP]* 33

Bangladesh

Opposition Walks Out To Protest Bill Passage *[AFP]* 34
Referendum on Parliamentary System Slated 15 Sep *[Dhaka Radio]* 34
Last Army Batch Leaves To Reconstruct Kuwait *[Dhaka Radio]* 34

India

Continuing Reportage on BCCI Activities 34
MPs Demand Early Discussion *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Commentary Looks Into Allegatios.. *[Delhi International]* 34
Rao Trip; No Change in Nonproliferation Stand *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Kashmir Mediation Ruled Out; Official Kidnapped *[Delhi Radio]* 35
BJP Candidate Elected Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Assam Releases Bodo Activists; Strike Called Off *[Delhi Radio]* 36
One Person Killed, 23 Injured in Jammu Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Rao Greets Pakistani Leaders on Independence Day *[Delhi Radio]* 36

Iran

Lebanon's Shaykh 'Ubayd Release Possible 'Soon' *[IRNA]* 37
Government Wants Hostages Released Before Apr *[AL-SHIRA' 12 Aug]* 37
British Request for 'Ubayd's Release Welcomed *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Onus on U.S., Israel for More Hostage Releases *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Interview With Central Bank Governor 'Adeli *[Tehran TV]* 39
Official on Expected Iraqi Move on POW Exchange *[IRNA]* 41
Foreign Ministry on New USSR Border Crossings *[IRNA]* 41

Pakistan

Premier Calls for Sanctions Against India *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Khan Elected Azad Kashmir President *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
JKLF Leader Calls for Pakistani Support *[AFP]* 41
Report of 7,000 Kashmiri Policemen Detained *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Bhutto Issues 'Secret Report' on Arms License *[THE NATION 12 Aug]* 42
Nuclear Program Considered Matter of 'Honor' *[THE MUSLIM 12 Aug]* 43
India's Military Buildup Viewed *[THE NATION 11 Aug]* 43
Cabinet Approves Holding Talks With India *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Sharif Accuses Opposition of Negative Politics *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Sri Lanka

LTTE Guns 'Silenced' at Elephant Pass 12 Aug *[Colombo International]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interview on Mideast Peace Process

PM1308141491 Paris LE FIGARO in French 12 Aug 91 p 4

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Remi Favret in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Favret] The preconditions put forward by Israel for holding an international conference totally exclude the PLO. How do you intend to prevent peace from being negotiated without you?

['Arafat] With whom will they make peace? With Qatar? Or with Bahrain? With whom can they make peace but the Palestinians? Without us, there will be no peace. This is a new Camp David, to normalize relations between Israel and the Arab countries. It is not peace, it is submission to Israeli preconditions and acceptance of blackmail. Unfortunately, the U.S. Administration has fallen into this trap.

However, I do not think that the Arab countries will agree to establish new agreements of the Camp David type, setting aside the Palestinians' rights, and disregarding Jerusalem—the holy city of Islam and Christianity.

[Favret] The main obstacles at present are the absence of the East Jerusalem question from the agenda and the composition of the Palestinian delegation. On this last point, is a compromise possible? What is the PLO's final position?

['Arafat] I will ask one question: Has there ever been a single example in the course of history of one camp choosing the other camp's negotiators? Following World War II, the Japanese formed their own delegation. In Potsdam, the Germans chose their representatives. The French did likewise at Versailles. In South Africa, this right is shared by the De Klerk government and the African National Congress.

Saddam Husayn sent the people he chose to meet Schwarzkopf after the Gulf war. Nobody, not even Schwarzkopf, objected to Saddam Husayn's choice. How can the Palestinians be forced to accept that their delegation be appointed by the enemy? Is this a new international law that Israel promulgated? This is unacceptable.

[Favret] However, some Palestinian sources have said that it would be acceptable to have a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation....

['Arafat] Palestinian sources? These are opinions which may have been expressed by Palestinians, but Palestinian sources means the PLO. And we have so far said nothing on this subject.

[Favret] And yet, would it be possible for you to accept the terms of this conference, even if the PLO as such was not represented at it?

['Arafat] Will peace be made with ghosts? If the Palestinians are not represented, it is pointless to ask our opinion.

[Favret] You have mentioned the risk for you of a new Camp David, during which Israel would sign separate peace agreements with its Arab neighbors....

['Arafat] I said that that was Israel's plan—to normalize its relations with the Arabs without giving the Palestinians anything.

[Favret] Do you think that that could happen? You have visited most of the Arab capitals which Secretary of State Baker has visited....

['Arafat] No, James Baker has visited the capitals I visited. I went first!

[Favret] And do you feel that the Arab countries will reject separate peace agreements?

['Arafat] I think that the Arabs are firmly attached to the Palestinians' rights. When the Jerusalem question was mentioned, I had unanimous support from the Arab countries. That support was expressed during the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization in Istanbul as it had previously been at the OAU summit, and as it will shortly be at the nonaligned summit.

[Favret] So, according to you, did James Baker go too far when he said in Algiers that Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia had accepted the terms of the peace process as he presented them?

['Arafat] Those countries were not in agreement with Israel's preconditions.

[Favret] Are you not afraid that Syria might be tempted by a separate peace?

['Arafat] I do not think so. Not one which ignores the Palestinians' rights.

[Favret] In short, are not Israel and the United States now making you pay for your support for Saddam Husayn during the Gulf war?

['Arafat] Schwarzkopf has said on Israeli radio that the United States waged that war on Israel's behalf. I am not inventing that.

[Favret] But does your attitude during the war not now weaken your position prior to the negotiations?

['Arafat] By asking that question, you seem to accept that the Gulf war was waged to serve Israel. Are there therefore double standards? In the Gulf crisis, everybody accepts the implementation of UN resolutions. But the UN resolutions on the Palestinian question are a different matter? Is this the new world order?

[Favret] I could ask you the same question. How does the fact that the United States has become the only world superpower affect the PLO?

['Arafat] We have taken this fact into consideration. But this does not mean that we are submitting just because the United States has become the only world power which accepts Israeli blackmail, the power of the Jewish lobby in its own country.... We have our rights—rights recognized by international law. I am not asking the impossible. I am asking for the implementation of international resolutions.

[Favret] What are you asking?

['Arafat] I am asking for President Bush to implement his initiative which he presented as being based on the principle of territories in exchange for peace, in the framework of resolutions 242 and 338, and withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem; the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, and security for all peoples and all states in the region. By becoming the leading world power, the United States must not become an arrogant and aggressive power.

Is the world power which was capable of waging the Gulf War incapable of establishing peace in Palestine now? If it is it will be the loser. Peace will be the loser. Because there will be no peace in the region without peace in Palestine.

[Favret] If the United States seems to have dismissed the idea of a settlement based on the UN resolutions, that leaves the other four permanent Security Council members. Are you disappointed by their stance?

['Arafat] The USSR will be one of the two co-chairmen of the coming conference. Europe has been given a marginal role, with observer status, despite its positive stance and its desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. China wants implementation of the UN resolutions.

[Favret] Have those powers not abandoned you somewhat by leaving it up to the United States to define the stages in the peace process?

['Arafat] The United States imposed that de facto situation as a result of Israeli blackmail. The international resolutions made provision for convening a conference under UN auspices, in the presence of the five permanent Security Council members and of all the countries concerned, including the PLO. Israel is opposed to this conference. And the United States accepted that refusal.

[Favret] Basically, did Israel not accept this conference because it feels it is no longer risking anything?

['Arafat] The Israelis constantly say that they will not make any concessions. They want to confiscate more land, establish new settlements to receive Jewish immigrants from the USSR and Eastern Europe. They want to establish a Greater Israel.

[Favret] You have been fighting for your homeland for more than 40 years, but have you ever seen Israel as strong as it now is?

['Arafat] It is not Israel's strength. It is that of the United States. Israel itself has not changed. It has just increased its room to maneuver in the shadow of U.S. power.

[Favret] Despite 20 years of efforts, you have never succeeded in weakening that alliance. Why? What do you think gives strength to Israeli-U.S. relations? Can it be reduced to blackmail as you claim?

['Arafat] Ask the United States.

Palestinian Leaders Attend PFLP-GC Ceremony

Jibril Assails PLO Leadership

JN1308193491 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Speech by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, at a ceremony to graduate youth and vanguard classes named after "Martyrs Khalid Akar and Sa'ib Suwayd"—date and place not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sisters, comrades on our march. We witness the rising generation of Palestinians as we meet today. They [not further identified] are always under an illusion. In 1948, they believed that Palestine was finished. We were the same age as these vanguards. When we grew up, we took up arms. We have been taking up arms, for 31 years, in continuous struggle. They are under an illusion.

In 1948, the Palestinian land was divided. The Zionist entity was given a big portion. Small portions of Palestine were given to some Arab states as bribes. They believed that the Palestinian issue was expunged from history and geography. Our first disaster occurred 43 years ago. Now we can see a rising generation, a generation handing the banner to another generation. Their motto is: Palestine, all of Palestine.

They never learned lessons from history. Now they repeat their previous methods in a comical manner, thinking that this Arab and Islamic nation capitulated after the Gulf war. The Americans and Zionists want to impose their terms on our Arab and Islamic nations.

At times they give us advice. Sometimes they warn us: Either you accept the terms or take the punishment we meted out to Iraq and the Iraqis. Now you hear of political moves being played up by the world media. They call it a peace conference. Of what peace are they talking? The peace that we understand is our return to the Palestinian homeland, to Haifa, Jafo, Jerusalem, not to the land that was occupied in 1967. [passage omitted]

We told them very frankly: If you are speaking about a peace conference, then peace is our right to return to Palestine, the right to self-determination, the right to

establish a Palestinian state. Without this, there will be no peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters: We know very well that without the Palestinians, peace can never be realized in the region. This has been proved in recent history. But who are these Palestinians that will speak in the name of Palestine? Is it Faysal al-Husayni or Hanan 'Ashrawi? The Palestinian people have been making sacrifices and offering thousands of martyrs since the beginning of this century. Shall we accept that our people be represented by men who live in luxury? The Palestinian people are represented by their strugglers, their men, their fighters, and the blood of their martyrs. They are represented by the voices of prisoners, the maimed, and the injured.

Therefore, we, the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], are very careful in these difficult circumstances to unify Palestinian ranks.

In late March, we presented a Palestinian initiative to unify the PLO on a clear and firm basis. However, and to our regret, there was no response over the past several months. The influential leadership in the PLO did not pay attention to the initiative because they had for years been believing in illusions offered to them by the United States and Europe. This leadership has over the past few years offered concessions that the enemy never dreamed of. These misled people in the PLO leadership thought that if they offered such concessions, such as recognizing the Zionist entity on the land of Palestine, they would have a seat at the peace conference. They offered them all these concessions. Finally they asked this leadership to do one final thing; namely, give itself the coup de grace. They asked it to give itself up as a concession, to cancel itself, to cancel the PLO.

A few years ago, this PLO leadership ceded what is more sacred than the PLO and its name; they conceded 80 percent of Palestinian land to the Israeli enemy.

Therefore, we say if the PLO leadership remains on this course, it will end up conceding the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Who concedes the land will concede his symbolic name. This is our understanding of these issues.

O brothers and sisters: Several months ago, we presented an initiative to reunite the PLO and close Palestinian ranks everywhere—inside and outside the occupied homeland. As I told you, the initiative was received with disregard and ridicule. However, two weeks ago, the PLO leadership agreed to hold a dialogue, in accordance with the PNSF's request, in Sanaa among all the vital forces of the Palestinian people inside and outside. We, in the PNSF and in the PFLP-GC, received this risky agreement, we received this initiative. We informed those involved of our agreement, in principle, on the principle of dialogue in Sanaa. However, we placed our legitimate conditions:

1. [as heard] This dialogue should be attended by all living forces—the PNSF, Hamas, the Islamic Jihad with all its branches, the Revolutionary Council, and the PLO factions. A political assessment of the PLO march in the past will be made during this dialogue. Nobody should imagine or be under the illusion that we will go into this dialogue in order to agree on selling Palestine or on recognizing Resolution 181, the partition resolution, or Resolution 242. If this leadership is serious, [applause] it should review its affairs, its march, and the size of the concessions made.

We believe that the Palestinian leadership should be firmer and more adhering to Palestine and Jerusalem than all Arabs, all Muslims, and all those rulers. Regrettably, we see that those leaders are making more concessions than all parties.

A few days ago, you heard that President Hafiz al-Asad was interviewed by the American media. These media organs repeated this question three times: Will you recognize the Jewish state on the land of Palestine? Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad refused to answer. He said: Leave this matter until after the conference convenes. However, the PLO leadership, regrettably, announced its recognition of the Israeli enemy—three years ago in Paris and Vienna—over 80 percent of the land of Palestine.

O brothers, therefore, we are going to this dialogue, God willing, if an agreement is reached on the principle of comprehensive dialogue without using the veto against anybody. We are going there to assess the past march. If we agree on a clear political paper, we will move to the organizational situation concerning the Palestine National Council. And if we do not reach an agreement, we will announce to you and everybody that this influential leadership of the PLO is not serious.

We hope that all forces and Palestinian personalities will work toward rendering this dialogue a success and reach important political results.

On this occasion, I welcome my brother Dr. George Habash, who is present among you [applause], and ask him to exert his utmost to make this dialogue a success, so that this dialogue will produce national principles to safeguard this Palestinian question. It is the cause of our fathers, it is our cause, and that of the coming generations.

We say, we will be able to topple the programs of peace and capitulation in the region if the Palestinian people are united in their revolutionary, Islamic, and living organizations. Let them then talk with ghosts. We say in advance: No concessions on Palestine. And the minimum level that we might accept as a PLO program is the right to repatriation, the right to self- determination, and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state. We cannot accept anything but this. And this also means that we have made many phased concessions in this regard. [passage omitted]

As you have heard, they are now crying and weeping all over the world over the hostage affair. They are making

all this fuss for only 15 hostages. They sent the UN secretary general to receive a letter because it concerns 15 people with blue blood running in their veins—the blood of nobles. On the other hand, there are the Palestinian people, who have been suffering from pain, agony, terrorism, and murder for 46 years. The world refuses to send the UN secretary general to Palestine. It refuses to send a UN delegation to gather facts on the land of Palestine. This is the injustice of this brutal world. We, therefore, tell you—the youths and vanguards—that without force, arms, and armed struggle, the right we are talking about will be false and cannot be safeguarded by this barbaric world you hear of. [applause]

We declare it right from this forum that these 15 hostages, as far as we and the Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers are concerned, are no better than the thousands of detainees, kidnapped, and prisoners held for many years in the prisons of the occupation and the world. If we saw some humanitarian initiatives concerning the hostages that have been freed, they are meant to show that the Zionists and the world are refusing to release thousands of detainees, prisoners, and kidnapped from our people and nation. We have detainees, kidnapped people, and prisoners in the jails of the world. Their only guilt is that they carried this sacred cause, and, consequently, were accused of terrorism.

The United States is accusing us of terrorism. The killing and starvation of 18 million Arabs and Muslims in Iraq is not terrorism. They are starving the children. The recent report of the United Nation's envoy said that more than 30,000 Iraqi children will die this month. They are killing 18 million people under the pretext of Saddam Husayn. If this argument is plausible, then why do we not kill all Westerners, every day and in every place, because their governments are perpetrating crimes against our people, nation, and the oppressed peoples? [applause]

If they claim that because Saddam Husayn is criminal 18 million Iraqis must starve to death, then we have to think again about the hollow justice in the world. [passage omitted]

Further on Graduation Ceremony

JN1308185491 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 16:30 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]—and in the presence of Talal Nayf, PFLP-GC assistant secretary general; Fadil Shururu, PFLP-GC Political Bureau secretary and official in charge of the Information and Central Guidance Department; 'Umar al-Shihabi, official in charge of the Political and External Relations Department; and the PFLP-GC Political Bureau members—a graduation ceremony was held for two classes: Martyr Khalid Akar class of the Palestinian Progressive Youth Organization, and Martyr Sa'ib Suwayd class of the Palestinian Progressive Vanguards and Pioneers Organization. The ceremony was held under the slogan: "With the Stone We Resist; With the Bullet We Fight; With the Glider We Cross Into Palestine."

The ceremony was attended by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front and former Palestine National Council speaker; George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Abu-Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani] at head of a PFLP delegation; Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, at head of a delegation from the movement; 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar, former PLO Executive Committee member; Sami Qandil, member of the General Command of the Organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation Struggle al-Sa'iqah Forces; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, at head of a delegation; Abu-Sutayf, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, at head of a delegation; 'Umar Harb, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union in Lebanon; Colonel Salim Abu-Shuraydah, representative for the 1 September Revolution of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; a delegation from the Damascus Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and delegations from Palestinian and Arab youth and popular organizations. The ceremony was also attended by a number of PFLP-GC's Central Committee members, PFLP-GC rank and file, the families of martyrs Khalid Akar and Sa'ib Suwayd, and crowds of our Palestinian and Syrian Arab peoples.

Ahmad Jibril delivered a speech on the occasion. [passage omitted]

Colonel Abu-Musa, secretary of the Central Committee of Fatah Movement, delivered a speech in which he said: Yes, Victory is ours. They see it too far, but we see it so close. This is how we were taught and brought up. This is what we believe, and on that path we will march.

Abu-Musa continued: Despite the conspiracy that it is being hatched against the Palestine question, we must remember every village and city in Palestine, and every valley and wadi. This is a lesson we must never forget.

He added: The proposed schemes and the U.S. initiatives are basically a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestine question. It is our duty to be cautious and vigilant. [passage omitted]

U.S. To Receive Delegates' Names 'This Week'

TA1308145591 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR learned that the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference will consist of four persons: one from East Jerusalem, the second from Gaza, the third from the West Bank, and the fourth from the diaspora Palestinians. The list of names will be delivered

this week to Washington via an Arab party, to be presented in turn to Israel. The Palestinian delegation's list will also include a number of advisers.

Palestinian and Arab sources have told AL-MANAR that the conference will be inaugurated in Stockholm. Then the participating delegations will move to Washington, Cairo, and Moscow in consecutive meetings.

Further Reaction to Peace Conference Proposal

PFLP's Habash Urges Boycott

JN1408000091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv (Agencies)—Three U.S. officials sent to the Middle East to discuss the drafting of assurances to Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians on proposed peace talks left Israel for Washington Tuesday, Israeli officials said. [passage omitted]

Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni said after he met the U.S. officials in the West Bank town of Ramallah last Friday the Palestinians would not accept Israel's demand to exclude a representative from Jerusalem on the delegation.

Palestinian sources said further meetings were expected with U.S. officials before October.

In Damascus, a Palestinian leader called on Arab governments Tuesday to boycott the projected peace conference if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is excluded from full participation.

George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said he will raise this demand at the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

"The peace conference is being staged to solve the Palestinian problem, yet the Palestinians are being excluded from it," Dr. Habash said in an interview.

"How is it possible to accept the American plan which says we, the PLO, simply do not exist?" Dr. Habash asked.

He added that he expected the PNC meeting in Tunis on Sept. 15 would approve his demand for the Arab governments to boycott the peace conference.

"The PLO is now calling on all the Arab states bordering Israel to form a united front. We want the Arab countries to say that the PLO has a right to have a special delegation, not a combined delegation with Jordan, at the conference," he said.

"Israel wants to make peace with the Arab countries surrounding it and leave the Palestinian cause outside this peace. But this will be a temporary solution as Israel will have to reconsider it after one or two years as the intifada will continue."

"It will become clear that without a solution of the Palestinian problem there will be no solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general."

Dr. Habash reiterated that a settlement is impossible without the acceptance of the Palestinian demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the right of the Palestinian refugees to return.

"As long as Palestinians remain outside Palestine... there will be no peace," he added.

He conceded that a peace conference "probably be held, but such a conference most probably will not succeed.

"No matter what (U.S. President George) Bush says or does there will be no success if the solution is not based on self-determination and an independent state."

Dr. Habash said 80 per cent of the Palestinian people support the PFLP approach which is also backed by other groups belonging to the PLO. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat should resist pressure to accept a conference without full PLO participation, he added.

"We Palestinians are only six million and America is the strongest nation in the world," he said.

"But despite this, without our self-determination, our return and a state of our own, there will be no peace. Not because we are stronger than America, but because our cause is just."

DFLP Asserts PLO Representation

JN1408092791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Aug 91 pp 24, 20

[Text] "Exclusive" to SAWT AL-SHA'B—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has held an extraordinary meeting attended by the majority of its members in the homeland and abroad, under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the secretary general elected in its ordinary session last April.

The DFLP Central Committee devoted its meeting to discussing the recent political moves aimed at convening a peace conference in the region according to the invitation addressed by the recent Bush- Gorbachev Moscow summit, and to discussing the internal DFLP situation.

The Central Committee asserted its firm adherence to the unity of Palestinian representation from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the diaspora, and to the Palestinian people's right alone—through the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative—to choose and name the delegation that will negotiate on their behalf, as a major party involved in the peace process.

The Central Committee also asserted its determination to secure international guarantees that stipulate an immediate halt to settlement activity in the occupied territories, Israeli withdrawal from these territories, and

giving the Palestinian people self-determination on their land without any foreign interference, as an outcome of this conference.

The Central Committee praised the national consensus inside and outside [the occupied territories], rejecting the U.S.-Israeli blackmail policy and the attempts to bypass the Jerusalem question and representation and exclude Palestinian representation at the peace conference. The Central Committee praised in particular the unanimous national stance inside the State of Palestine as expressed in Call No. 73 issued by the Unified National Leadership, the statement of the Higher Islamic Committee, and statements by various nationalist forces, committees, and institutions. The Central Committee, moreover, underscored the need to protect the one homeland, that undermines Palestinian democracy and opens the windows to Israeli sabotage [sentence as published].

The Central Committee hailed the PLO's five-point announcement, considering it a realistic and concrete basis to unify the stands of all zealous nationalist forces and trends that are concerned for the future of the people and homeland.

The Central Committee also urged the frontline states including Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to hold an urgent meeting so as to coordinate stands and pave the way for a comprehensive Arab parley.

3 Palestinian Figures Comment

TA1308170391 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 12 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akr]

[Text] At this point, Palestinians in the occupied territories assert that their people have not received sufficient guarantees which convince them that participation in the regional peace conference tentatively scheduled for this October will not backfire and harm their cause and position. Three Palestinian figures who represent a large portion of the public opinion in the West Bank spoke with AL-FAJR last week, and said that while there is an unmitigated willingness for the Palestinian people to participate in the political process, their participation can come only if the Palestinian leadership, the PLO, is treated as an equal to the other participants and if Palestinian national rights are recognized.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, former head of the Arab Journalists Association, said that any Palestinian participation in the peace conference should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, in addition to the freedom for Palestinians to choose their own representatives without external interference and without attempts to exclude the issue of Jerusalem.

"Without providing such conditions and guarantees from both sponsors of the conference—the United States and the Soviet Union—participation in the conference will be an obscure issue full of dangers and expectations which may be negative for the Palestinians," he said.

Abu-'Ayyash asserted that what is being offered to the Palestinians at this time does not measure up to Palestinian aspirations. "The aim of what is being offered so far is to get the process going. It seems that the issue is heading toward an Arab-Israeli solution and away from a Palestinian solution."

Therefore, 'Ayyash added, Palestinians should get guarantees from the Arab countries participating in the conference to ensure that a unilateral solution is not accepted, and the Camp David example will not be repeated. "The guarantees should assert that there will be a comprehensive Palestinian and Arab settlement and then there should be American-Arab guarantees to achieve our essential demands."

Bashir al-Barghuthy, editor in chief of the Jerusalem-based leftist weekly AL-TALI'AH said that he is not against convening the conference and he supports negotiations as well as employing all Arab and international factors in this respect.

"But, I believe that Palestinians did not choose the right start very well," he said. "They should have first headed toward the Arab countries to prepare for a joint position regarding the peace conference. After that, we could have taken part in the negotiations with a strong position."

Al-Barghuthy said Palestinians could force the Arab states to deal with the PLO had they taken a firm position based on coordination. He said the Arab countries which cooperated with the United States are concerned with establishing a new Arab order and each of these countries is competing for a better position. And in order to be fit for a leading role, these countries should have to get the Palestinian card and therefore would be forced to deal with the PLO.

"This was possible if we had held firm a little, to force them to deal directly with the PLO and not through a mediator as is the case now," he said. Al-Barghuthy added that Palestinians have made large and unnecessary tactical concessions, and it would have been better for the Palestinians to start from the point of the right to self-determination. He also believes that as a result "we are suffering now from tactical losses, in regards to the Palestinian representation, the independence of the delegation, and the implied acceptance to meet with Baker through a delegation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, therefore ceding part of the international legitimacy."

Al-Barghuthy explained that because part of Resolution 242 discusses solving the refugee problem, a Palestinian representative from outside the occupied territories should be present in the delegation in order to discuss

this point. Limiting the delegation membership to Palestinians inside the occupied territories means ceding this provision in the resolution.

"The PLO has no right to decide, in case it wanted to, to cede its responsibility in this regards and switch representation to Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

"What is demanded now is the assertion of the right to self-determination; to cling to it and consider it as the bottom line, while asserting that we are ready to negotiate.

"No one can accuse people of extremism for demanding their right to self-determination. We want recognition, promises and guarantees to secure the right to self-determination and then we are ready to take part in the negotiations," he concluded.

On the other hand, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, professor of engineering at Bi'r Zayt University, is strongly opposed to the current American efforts to convene a regional conference and asserts that meeting with Baker was wrong from the very beginning.

"That is why the participants now find themselves in a difficult situation which is difficult to get out of," said al-Maliki. "Until this moment, there is no 'final decision by the PLO to participate in what the United States is presenting. What is needed now on the Palestinian level is to maintain the Palestinian card independently and not to cede the basic national principles."

Al-Maliki said a declaration of principles should be made to which all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories would stick. "The unified Palestinian position should be consolidated to face any external pressures which aim at getting gratis concessions."

He called on the PLO and the participants in the meetings to elaborate on the situation in detail to the Palestinian masses in order to inform them of what was accepted in these meetings and what is under discussion, so that the Palestinian masses will take part in the discussion and in the decision-making.

"While Baker thinks that Palestinian participation in the conference is an important factor for the success of the conference, he minimizes this participation," al-Maliki said. "The participation of Palestinians in the conference should be on equal footing."

Mauritania

40 Injured After Police Break Up Demonstration

AB1308020691 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 13 Aug 91

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] Reports from Mauritania say at least 40 women have been injured when police, wielding batons, broke up a human rights demonstration in the capital, Nouakchott. The reports say the women were among a group of 150 protesters demanding an independent inquiry into the fate of hundreds of black Mauritanians who are unaccounted for after mass arrests following an alleged attempted coup late last year.

The demonstrators are said to have been joined by a number of people who alleged they had been tortured while in detention. Correspondents say international human rights organizations have accused Mauritania's Arab-led government of violent oppression of the country's black African citizens.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives al-Qadhdhafi Invitation

LD0908094491 Tripoli JANA in English 0837 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Rabat, Hannibal [August] 9 JANA Arab Maghreb Union pool—King Hassan II of Morocco received yesterday a message of invitation from the leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi]—to attend the celebrations of the first phase of the great man-made river, during his reception to Maj. al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the special envoy of the leader.

King Hassan II asked Maj. al-Khuwaylidi to extent his compliments and high regards for the leader of the revolution, expressing his true brotherly feelings towards the leader, and reaffirming his personal attention for the development and promotion of the two sisterly countries' relations.

King Hassan II confirmed during the reception the significance of the unification of the identity card for the nationals of both countries to facilitate their movement [and] the unification, as well, of the educational curriculums as soon as possible to promote the fusion of the nationals of Arab Maghreb Union.

Through the reception, the review of the recent developments of the Arab and international situation, in addition to various other issues of joint interest, took place.

The reception was attended by Ahmed Reda Guedira, the special advisor of King Hassan II, the Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri, the Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry ahmed [name indistinct], the resident delegate of Great Jamahiria in Morocco and the ambassador of Morocco in Great Jamahiria.

Opposition Statement on Sahara Issues

LD1308162491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Excerpt] With regard to the issue of Western Sahara, three Moroccan opposition parties addressed an appeal to the Moroccan people, stressing the necessity of volunteering to foil the conspiracies and rejecting the adoption of the 1974 census, because Western Sahara was then a Spanish colony. Details from Ahmed Khida:

[Khida] Three main Moroccan opposition political parties stressed anew in a joint statement published in Rabat today that the question of what they termed as the recovery of the Saharan regions is a foregone conclusion. The Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party, and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action addressed an appeal to the Moroccan people inviting them to volunteer to foil all plans and conspiracies being hatched, which aim—according to the statement—at violating the people's national unity. The statement also stressed that the process of recovering the Saharan regions is being carried out within the framework of international legitimacy and that the referendum in which the Sahraous people will vote at the beginning of 1992 is meaningless. The statement pointed out on the other hand that in the event of this referendum taking place it should not be carried out on the basis of the 1974 census, as the Western Sahara was then a Spanish colony. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Views Egypt Ties, Peace Conference

NC1408072491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2053 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, in an interview with AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi', stated that Kuwait will witness major changes in all fields, particularly in the security area in its broad sense in the aftermath of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. He said that the demography in Kuwait will be changed to serve the country's political, economic, and social interests.

In the dialogue AL-AHRAM will publish on its front page tomorrow, the heir apparent said the Kuwaiti Government gives this issue utmost importance. He noted that the Kuwaiti citizen learned many lessons on sharing, cooperation, and strengthening ties with the brothers and friends who stood by Kuwait. He expressed his hope that everyone learned a lesson from the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and sees clearly the dimensions of this aggression and its expansionist ambitions.

Speaking about Egypt's role, represented through its people and companies in the reconstruction of Kuwait, he said: I would like to address a clear and candid message to the Egyptian brothers: After we returned to our country, we requested the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait to contact Egyptian companies and establishments to contribute to Kuwait's reconstruction. A large delegation led by Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi came to Kuwait and agreement was reached on implementing a number of projects. Reports that we closed the door to Egyptian contractors and companies are untrue. These reports were intended to foment plots and divisions. The doors are open and a large number of Egyptian teachers arrived in Kuwait. Classes will start next month.

With his well-known frankness, the heir apparent said that the survival of this person "meaning Saddam Husayn" and his domination of the destiny of Iraq will not help establish stability in the region. This man ignored the rights of neighbors and good-neighborliness, trampled promises and pledges, and committed his treacherous aggression against Kuwait. It is hard to forget the killing, looting, and violation of sanctities and honor. The wound is still deep, he stressed.

As for the countries that stood with the oppressor, the heir apparent said it is up to them to reconsider their stands, return to their senses, and proceed on the right path. He said: We are following up the efforts Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is exerting to unify the Arab position and work out a formula for unified ranks. We still believe the Arab League should continue its role after it has been developed.

Referring to the Arab security issue, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said that an agreement on the guidelines was reached during a meeting in Kuwait last month attended by Egypt and Syria. The Damascus Declaration agreement still needs to be translated into a method of work as a first step. It is not a matter of agreements, he said, because we have many joint defense agreements, but of true intentions and a will for implementation. He stressed that Kuwait welcomes cooperation in all fields with all the countries that stood with right. He noted he soon will visit beloved Egypt. He pointed out that Kuwait supports the convening of an international peace conference to address the region's present and future and the Palestinian people's issue, provided Israel is prepared to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that the Palestinian party accepts the outcome of this conference.

TV Programs Slated for Beaming Via Satellite

LD1308103791 London KUNA in Arabic 0952 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub announced that Kuwait agreed to buy an earth [communication] station, Intelstat, to establish a television link between Kuwait and the world via satellite. He added that the Voice of Kuwait will reach the world early next year. Dr al-Ya'qub went on to say, in an interview with the [Kuwaiti] paper AL-FAJR AL-JADID [NEW DAWN] today, that "the Information Ministry in endeavoring to improve services and it will continue its clear media policy." He also said that things are returning to normal at the ministry and that the refurbishment of the ministry has been completed. The minister also pointed out that the radio and television studios are being refurbished and that they are being equipped with the most modern equipment. He added that he expects all the refurbishment work in the studios to be completed before the next national day [25 February].

French Bill Said 'Link' in 'Chain of Aggression'

JN1308113991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president of the republic, described the French draft resolution presented to the UN Security Council as another link in the chain of aggression against Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that this draft violates the principles of human rights and democracy and constitutes a dangerous precedent in the international arena. He said the bill contravenes all international laws and norms and UN Security Council resolutions, and constitutes a blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs. It is also inapplicable politically, technically, and legally.

He said that the French draft is an exposed attempt to absorb Arab, Islamic, and world pressures, and even the pressures inside the United States, France, and Britain which strongly demand an end to the unjust, unprecedented blockade which for a year has exposed children and the elderly of Iraq to starvation and illness, and exposed the sick to death.

The vice president stressed that the French bill is an attempt to circumvent Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan's report, which revealed in figures the dangers the Iraqi people are subjected to as a result of the continued blockade and medicine and food shortages. He called for lifting the blockade and allowing Iraq to export its oil to purchase foodstuffs and medicines.

Concluding his statement, Ramadan urged states, organizations, and public figures who really appreciate human rights to raise their voices in condemnation of such wornout formulas, renounce the law of the jungle, and adhere to the principles of the international law and human norms when dealing with other nations.

Jordanian Minister Rejects French Draft

JN1308172391 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH AL-USBU'I in Arabic 12 Aug 91 pp 1,2

[By Lahib 'Abd-al-Khaliq]

[Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Jordanian labor minister and minister of cabinet affairs, has affirmed that the recent French draft resolution is considered a blatant interference in Iraq's sovereignty. He added: We reject the French draft, tutelage over Iraq, and interference in the Iraqi people's affairs. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, the Jordanian minister, who is the guest of Dr. Umid Midhat, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, said that the draft resolutions which are being presented to the Security Council and the international councils are not at all in the interest of Iraq and its sovereignty. We have been against the embargo since it was declared. His Majesty King Husayn did not hesitate—during visits by Americans and Europeans as well as during his meetings with the officials in these countries—to call for lifting this embargo and to explain the tribulations of the Iraqi people. His majesty even called for the end to interference in Iraq's internal affairs, the Jordanian minister said.

Al-Dughmi said that Jordanian officials asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, during his recent visit, not to interfere in Iraq's affairs, because Iraq can take care of its own affairs despite the situation from which the people are suffering as a result of the recent war. He added: We explained to Mr. Baker the about the food and medicine shortage as well as the diseases which spread as a result of America's insistence on this unjust embargo. [passage omitted]

Papers Stress Rejection of French Draft

JN1308084391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Today's Iraqi newspapers have held the aggressive alliance countries, foremost of which are the United States, France, and Britain, responsible for trading with the lives of the Iraqi people, for their suffering and sacrifices, by maintaining the siege and practicing blackmail against them.

The newspapers affirm in their editorials and articles today Iraq's categorical rejection of the suspect French draft proposal, whose objectives are not to lift the human injustice imposed on the Iraqi people, but to take cover under the guise of humanity to impose political conditions and foreign custodianship on its people.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says in its editorial that those who hypocritically shed crocodile tears over human rights would be better off by immediately ensuring that the siege is totally lifted, so that the Iraqi people can receive the necessary humanitarian aid to gradually supply their needs, and so they can go about their normal life and make the wheels of national economy begin to turn once again.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that this logic is understood by the noble people in the world. The continuation of the seige is no longer justified and there are no human nor legal reasons for it now that the ceasefire is in effect and Iraq has adhered to the resolutions of the United Nations and cooperated fully and seriously to implement them quickly and effectively in order to eliminate any fabricated justification for maintaining the siege.

It affirms that the French draft proposal is part of the conspiracy against Iraq and its people. Through blackmail and trading with the sufferings of the Iraqi people, it tries to pass a new American scheme which would stake the fate of these persevering people in order to gain greater political influence and custody and keep the Iraqi people hostages of poverty, destitution, and the continuing U.S. conspiracy against it.

The newspaper notes that this public congressional goal is not the only goal of this sly scheme. It also paves the way for robbing the Iraqi government of its national responsibilities and duties so that the aggressive alliance forces can take over these responsibilities and duties to obscure the state organs and cast doubt over their capabilities and the honesty of the leadership. This on its own, has been part of the conspiracy since the beginning of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

The newspaper concludes: The draft proposal harms Iraq's sovereignty and independence. This is what we reject in part and parcel. No matter how large the sacrifice, we will not accept to turn this into a reality and we will patiently and determinedly fight it . The Americans and their followers, headed by France, England, and the rest of the alliance states aggressive to Iraq, will be held responsible for all that has happened and is happening.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that Iraq will continue to say no to any draft resolution that imposes foreign custody over it. It will say yes to any fair draft resolution void of premeditated mean intentions and objectives.

The newspaper says in an article today that Iraq has no pre-conceived ideas or stands regarding the draft resolutions which are being discussed in the Security Council. Iraq supports international resolutions only when they are fair. It supports any draft resolution which takes into consideration Iraq's rights, adherence to sovereignty, independence, and independent decision- making, and which removes any wagering over the dignity of its people.

The paper adds: When Iraq rejected the French draft proposal in its first and second forms, it was because the proposal violates the articles of Resolution 687 which stipulates lifting the economic siege imposed on Iraq.

The newspaper advises others to understand Iraq well and not to be fooled by the abnormal situation Iraq is going through now. It affirms that Iraq is capable of patience and steadfastness; its people, leadership, and great leader Saddam Husayn have well-known and recorded stands and experiences in patience and steadfastness.

Concluding its article, the newspaper addresses those who write the draft proposals and their ilk saying that Iraq adheres to the well-known Arabic saying that it is better to die free than to live in captivity. Iraq has well-known experience in confronting difficulties and in patience and perseverence, which have increased its effectiveness, not killed it, and never revealed it as one that will mortgage itself and its potentials to others.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH describes the French draft proposal as a French formulation of the U.S. president's ideas. Essentially, it is a political translation of the industrialized states' summit resolutions which convened recently in London and affirmed that these countries will continue to impose their siege on the people of Iraq.

It says in an article published here today that the industrialized states' understanding of the new world order merely confirms their racist views toward the third world, and the Arabs in particular. They refuse to accept the right of nations to self-determination and to develop their resources. They also reject the ambitions of the people of the world to control their economies and advance their structure in a way that will allow them to formulate their foreign relations on the bases of respect, equality, and equal rights.

The newspaper stresses that if the balance of forces in the international arena in the post World War II era formed a deterrent to the colonialist control tendencies of the American and European West, then the collapse of that balance along with the collapse of the socialist camp brings the colonialist hegemony to the forefront in a disgraceful manner that cannot be concealed by the new world order inasmuch as it exposes and reveals it.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the French draft proposed to the Security Council is a colonialist formulation that the top aides of Bush's new world order are attempting to impose on the Third World, which has been stripped of its rights, leaving it only the right to eat, but not talk, the right to consume, not construct.

The paper says Iraq rejects imperialist hegemony and custody. It has rejected this and has paid the price from its development, not its will. Once again, Iraq rejects this, as is shown by its rejection of the French proposal. Iraq rejects it while fully aware of what it is doing and while waging the battle of steadfastness and proceeding from the pillar of reconstruction.

Saddam Husayn Receives Kurdish Leader Barzani

JN1308133391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

'Positive' Meeting

JN1308172791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1622 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Dear listeners: The president of the Republic of Iraq received struggler comrade Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Front delegation to the Baghdad talks, at noon today, Tuesday, 13 August 1991. The meeting was cordial and positive.

Paper Reveals Iran, Turkey Ambitions in Iraq

NC1408075291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM believes that there is coordination between Turkey and Iran to carve out parts of Iraqi territory. It calls for confronting these ambitions, regardless of the conduct of the Iraqi regime, which has brought calamities for Arab national security.

In an article in its Wednesday issue, AL-AHRAM cites the ferocious Iranian campaign against the Arab countries, which accuses them of betraying the Palestinian cause and accepting the peace conference according to U.S. terms. The newspaper says this campaign follows the previous Iranian campaign against Egypt, which has strongly confronted Iranian ambitions in the Gulf represented by Iran's efforts to play a role in the security arrangements in that region. But Egypt and Syria have succeeded in maintaining the Arab character of the security arrangements in the Gulf region.

AL-AHRAM says that the Iranian propaganda campaign has coincided with the Turkish forces' occupation of some Iraqi territory under the pretext of setting up a buffer zone to prevent attacks by Kurdish guerrillas. Turkey has secured Iran's support for this operation in what seems to be coordination between the two countries to carve out parts of Iraq.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM calls for a unified Arab stand against Iran and Turkey, explaining that the Arabism of Iraq is above differences and that any delay in taking action will lead to the loss of more Arab lands.

Communist Leader Discusses Kurdish Issue

PM0908143091 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Aug 91 p 4

[Interview with Iraqi Communist Party Politburo Member Fakhri Karim by Jean Gueyras in Paris—date not given]

[Text] The Baghdad regime and the Kurdish opposition in Iraq have been negotiating since mid-April with a view to reaching a new agreement on the status of Iraqi Kurdistan. These talks which have taken place in Baghdad have not yet been concluded and currently seem to be in deadlock. On a stopover in Paris, Fakhri Karim, member of the Iraqi Communist Party politburo, whose Kurdish branch is a member of the Kurdistan Front, explained to us why his party always boycotted those talks.

From April, Mr. Fakhri Karim stressed, we told our partners in the front of our "strong reservations" about these talks "which are bound to strengthen Saddam Husayn's position by demobilizing the people's movement resisting the Iraqi regime and to weaken the support which the Kurdish cause enjoys in the international community." Mr. Karim added that despite his reservations the Kurdish branch of the Iraqi Communist Party remained within the Kurdistan Front "to avoid a split" within the Joint Action Committee, which groups all the Iraqi opposition political forces in Damascus.

"We think that while Saddam Husayn remains in power there cannot be any democracy, normalization, or human rights in Iraq or the realization of the objectives of Kurdish nationalism. The Kurdish demands for democracy and autonomy are totally inconsistent with the nature of the Baghdad regime." According to Fakhri Karim, President Saddam Husayn has so far tried to impose conditions which would place the Kurds under the influence of the Baghdad regime. "Thus," he said, "he tried to rid the future agreement of elements which already were featured in the 1970 agreement on autonomy. He wants the provincial governors to be appointed by central government and the security and police forces to be directed by Baghdad. He wants Karkuk and other regions in Kurdistan to be excluded from the Kurds' control on the pretext of safeguarding Iraq's strategic security."

"Different Opinions"

All these conditions were rejected by the envoys of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, Mr. Fakhri Karim added, although he admitted that there are "different interpretations and opinions" within that front. But, he added quickly, Masud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, whose viewpoints sometimes seem contradictory, agree on a minimum program set by the front beyond which they have agreed to make no concessions. Saddam Husayn's objective in starting these negotiations is, he said, to neutralize the Kurdish resistance movement, to play for time, and to set the Shiites against the Kurds.

Fakhri Karim thinks that this last attempt is doomed to failure. He admits that within the Iraqi opposition's Joint Action Committee, which comprises the Shiite organizations among others and which has already rejected negotiations with Saddam Husayn, there are disagreements on what attitude to adopt toward the Kurdistan Front, whose expulsion has been advocated by some people. But now, he added, there is a consensus on solving this problem politically, "to avoid giving Saddam Husayn an unexpected opportunity to take advantage of his enemy's divisions." The Iraqi Kurdistan Front, he stressed, attends all the opposition leaders' meetings. "We have explained to them that the real guarantee of fulfilling their aspirations is to maintain their links with the opposition as a whole."

In conclusion, Mr. Fakhri Karim strongly criticized the "hypocritical" attitude of President Bush and some international circles which, by refusing political recognition of the Iraqi opposition, are helping to prolong the "survival" of Saddam Husayn's regime. "We think that the latter will not be overthrown by external action, but by the Iraqis themselves. All we are asking the international community to do is to provide the opposition with all possible aid." In this connection, he praised Britsh

Prime Minister John Major who, he said, was not afraid to meet with a delegation representing the whole Iraqi opposition whereas previously, at the Quai d'Orsay, it had only been received by civil servants, "however high-ranking they might be."

Kurds, Government Discuss Situation in Karkuk

JN0908184891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 9 Aug 91

[All Kurdish names as heard]

[Text] A meeting was held today, 9 August 1991, between comrade Qadir al-Haj 'Ali, member of the action committee for Kurdistan Front's political leadership, and Comrades Hasan al-Shuwaysani, Malusta 'Abdallah, 'Abd-al-Muhaymin al-Barzani, Malusta Fatau, on one side, and the commanders of I Army Corps and V Army Corps, the al-Sulaymaniyah governor, a representative for the Irbil governor, and security and intelligence officials in the two cities on the other. The meeting was also attended by the Kurdistan Front's committees in al-Sulaymaniyah, Karkuk, and Irbil governorates, as well as the coordination committees in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil.

The meeting aimed at calming the abnormal situation in Karkuk. The meeting discussed the situation and yielded good results, which will hopefully calm the situation in the city very soon.

Further on Talks

NC1008182791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Following the recent events in Karkuk, as represented by Iraqi [word indistinct], continuing detentions, and the flight of Kurds from Karkuk, we redoubled our efforts to end the tension in the town and stop these campaigns so as to allow the ongoing efforts to achieve an agreement between the Kurdish front and the Iraqi Government to reach a fair and democratic solution to the Kurdish problem.

As a result of this responsible attitude by the Kurdish front and government officials, a delegation from the Kurdish front met with an Iraqi Government delegation which consisted of the commanders of the I and V Army Corps, the al-Sulaymaniyah governor, a representative of the Irbil governor, and security and intelligence officers. The Kurdish front delegation was represented by [word indistinct] al-Sulaymaniyah, Karkuk, and Irbil and [word indistinct].

The conferees discussed the situation in Karkuk and the steps needed to end tension and remove the obstacles to the normalization of the situation there. The conferees adopted a series of positive decisions and steps which will help improve the situation in the town and enable all the evacuees and refugees to return in safety.

We hope that the recent meeting will have positive results and that everyone will abide by a spirit of constructive dialogue and serious work to remove those obstacles and difficulties impeding the achievement of a final agreement. The lingering effects of earlier policies and all traces of the bloody fighting between the central government and the Kurdish people in Kurdistan cannot be eliminated overnight. Good intentions must be proved through diligent and sincere work and confidence building with those who suffered as a resulted of the bitter policies and practices of past years.

Nevertheless, pursuing earlier steps and policies and [word indistinct] rancorous elements will only fan the fire of sedition and sabotage the [words indistinct].

Steps To Restore Order in al-Sulaymaniyah Viewed

NC1008183991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] In light of the decisions adopted at the conclusion of the meetings of the Kurdistan front's political command and executive committee held between 31 July and 4 August, the Kurdistan Front committee in al-Sulaymaniyah met with members of the governorate coordination committee in order to eliminate the complications created by the recent events in al-Sulaymaniyah and to restore normality to the town and its environs.

After discussing all issues connected with this objective, including all obstacles to it, the Kurdistan front in the governorate issued a series of decisions designed to end the acts of theft and looting that are taking place in the town. We urge everyone to abide by these decisions. Violators, regardless of their party affiliations, will be liable to punishment by the Kurdistan Front's court. These are the decisions:

1. The Kurdistan front committee in al-Sulaymaniyah believes that a sufficient number of its peshmergas, carrying special identity cards, should be deployed to keep order and to protect citizens in the town;

2. Only those carrying special identity cards will be allowed to bear arms while walking about the town;

3. Anyone who disregards this decision will be immediately disarmed and arrested and tried before the Kurdistan front's court; and

4. Citizens will require a permit from the committee to enter a government department. Citizens will also be asked to vacate the houses they occupied for personal [words indistinct].

Attack on Regime Forces in Diyala Reported

NC0908150591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1421 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] In a successful attack by our heroic revolutionaries on a group of the regime's mercenaries in the

al-'Uzaym area in Diyala Governorate, several of the Ba'thist enemies were killed and wounded and equipment was destroyed. The battle took place last weekend and lasted several hours, after which our victorious mujahidin returned to their base safely after proving to the Saddamist enemies that the people will not close their eyes until all the Ba'thist criminals meet their just punishment.

Opposition Reports Attack on Saddam's Daughter

NC1308152191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] In response to Saddam's and his henchmen's continuing crimes against our people, the heroes of the valiant uprising have decided to escalate their jihad operations and pour the wrath of the people on the Takriti family, so as to give the tyrant a taste of what he has been inflicting on our steadfast people.

In a daring lightening operation earlier in the month of Muharram [beginning on 13 July], the heroic revolutionaries attacked the car of Saddam's eldest daughter, who is married to [Defense Minister] Husayn Kamil.

This was revealed by well-informed sources, who added that the mujahidin fired on the bullet-proof car of the tyrant's daughter with machine guns on a street in al-'Amiriyah, west of Baghdad.

This is the second time our popular forces heroes have attacked the daughter of defeated Saddam. The first attack took place early in July, when she was at a late-night party at one of the nightclubs frequented by Saddam's henchmen and their decadent families. The nightclub is on Sa'dun Street, near al-Nasr Square. A number of the nightclub's patrons were wounded in the attack, including Saddam's daughter.

Kurdish Radio Deplores Turkish Attacks

JN1008192191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Talk by political observer: "Let's Hope We Won't See a Repeat"]

[Text] On Wednesday evening, 7 August 1991, news agencies, foreign radio stations, and the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan reported the bombing of positions of homeless and peaceful Kurds in [nameplaces indistinct] in Iraqi Kurdistan, killing innocents and wounding approximately 30 people. The report sent shockwaves through our Kurdish people, who were overwhelmed by dismay and sadness. All the more so, given a worldwide sympathy for the cause of the Kurdish people of Iraqi Kurdistan, and governments and people vying to champion and lend support to our people's just cause.

Most regrettably, the aggression was committed by a nation that voluntarily played host to tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees in 1988 who sought safety in Turkey. In retrospect, our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan and their liberation movement are grateful and appreciative that Turkey provided them with a safe haven in 1988 and again in the spring of 1991 following the popular uprising. Furthermore, Turkish leaders have on many occasions displayed goodwill toward the Kurdish people. Remarks by President Turgut Ozal that he was of Kurdish descent and that his country appreciated and understood the Kurdish question had augured a positive change in Turkey's policies.

In any case, to punish Iraqi Kurds for actions by their brother Kurds in Turkey is just not right. It is incompatible with its recent measures symptomatic of an understanding of the national sentiments of the Kurds, like the permission given for Turkey's Kurds to speak Kurdish in public, and promises to grant cultural and democratic rights to Turkish Kurds. This is in conflict with [words indistinct] to join the EC which has been made conditional on democratic reform in the country. We only wish Turkish officials would move to prevent a repetition of what has happened.

'Hypocrisy' Over Turkey's Kurdish Policy Noted

JN1208082691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0622 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that the suspicious silence, especially by the United States, over the repressive military operations against Turkey's Kurds is the best example of the political hypocrisy which constitutes the core of the new world order which Washington wants to impose on the world.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that the U.S. position, despite the critical and denunciatory statements issued here and there in the capitals of the American West, is not the same as or even similar to the position adopted during the events in northern Iraq following the aggression, when these Western states created a great uproar and took part in the call for a new anti-Iraq resolution by the UN Security Council.

The paper adds that in recalling these stands, Iraq not only wants to emphasize the double standards pursued by the Americans and their satellites as well as the new world order's lack of credibility, but also wants to note its constant principled stand which is that the victims of the internationalization of the Kurdish issue will be the Kurds themselves; this is what is happening in Turkey.

AL-QADISIYAH says Ankara's military operation against its Kurdish citizens stopped being a purely internal affair when it went beyond Turkish territory into national Iraqi territory. The paper says that the political significance of this operation is closely linked to what is going on in the region in the wake of the 30-state aggression against Iraq and its people.

The paper stresses that this military operation is a new example of the double standards pursued by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist coalition and the area states which supported them.

The paper reviews the stands of the United States and the allied states and the fuss they made about Iraq's action to safeguard its national entity, stability, and security in the northern part of the homeland [words indistinct] and these states' exploitation of the riots to deport our Kurdish people to Turkey, Iran, and (?Syria).

The paper says that at that time Turkey was not far away from the U.S. conspiracy when it joined the chorus of those lamenting the rights of Kurds in Iraq and forgot that playing with the Kurdish card would burn its fingers.

The paper explains that Turkey's military campaign against Kurdish (?opponents) cannot be compared with what had happened in Iraq. What is taking place now is real repression of the opposition in which arms are being used instead of dialogue. On the other hand, Iraq dealt with the serious riots which accompanied the U.S. military aggression as events which directly affect its national and people's security.

Turkey Charged With Exploiting Water Issue

JN0908132891 Baghdad INA in English 1259 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 9, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad charged Turkey with attempts to involve waters in the political and security issues of the Middle East.

A paper article published here today on the project of the peace water pipes, the paper accused the government of Turgut Ozal of working to exploit waters and employing it as an instrument of pressure to serve its interests and those of the designs of the NATO countries and consequently affecting the entire regional conditions in the region. [sentence as received]

Turkey had during the recent meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers conference tabled the project of the peace water pipes which provides for supplying near and neighbouring countries to Turkey with drinking water through a network of pipes 2400-km long.

The Iraqi paper said the quantities of water which Turkey had expressed readiness to provide to those countries would be deducted from the shares of Iraq and Syria in the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates.

The paper said that Turkey's move of tabling the question of water at the recent Islamic conference in Istanbul reflected its desire to play a certain role in the economic relations and exchange roles with the American administration.

The paper clarified that the meeting of Presidents Bush and Ozal last July in Ankara was centered on the means of harming Iraq and implementing the new American design to the region.

Labor Minister, Jordanian Counterpart Meet

JN1208171391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs, and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, labor minister and minister of cabinet affairs of fraternal Jordan, today discussed cooperation and coordination between the labor ministries of both countries. They also discussed work force employment and inspection of factories in both private and public sectors in the two countries.

During the meeting, the Iraqi minister outlined Iraq's experience in the fields of social security for workers, occupational safety, health insurance, and other social services.

Mr. al-Dughmi arrived in Baghdad last night heading a delegation on a four-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

Gas Separator Unit in Al-Rumaylah Inaugurated

JN1208062191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, 12 Aug (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Hiti today inaugurated the third gas separator unit in the northern al-Rumaylah oil field in southern Iraq.

The output capacity of the unit, which was heavily damaged as a result of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression, amounts to 100,000 barrels per day.

Ba'thists Killed in Riots Granted Martyr Status

JN1008120191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Decision No. 256 issued by the Revolution Command Council on 29 July]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decided the following:

1. The party's martyrs killed as a result of their contribution to fighting the chapter of treason and treachery in the Mother of Battles shall be considered martyrs. Their families shall enjoy the same rights and privileges granted to the families of their counterparts who were martyred in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle.

2. The concerned ministers as well as the competent authorities shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Foreign Minister Meets European Parliament Member

JN1008130891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today received European Parliament member Peter Shansel. They discussed cooperation between Iraq and the European Parliament and issues of mutual concern.

Food Importers Exempted From Tax for 1 Year

JN1108122391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Revolution Command Council Decision 270 issued 8 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Revolution Command Council Decision 270; dated 28 Muharram 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 8 August 1991:

In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decided the following:

1. Profits earned by importers of staple foodstuffs distributed according to ration cards and imported within one year of the date that this decision goes into effect shall be exempted from income tax.

2. This decision goes into effect as of the date it is published in the Official Gazette. Concerned ministers and the competent agencies shall implement the provisions of this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Command Council Starts 'Baghdad Stock Exchange'

JN1108164591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to issue the Baghdad Stock Exchange Law No. 24 for 1991. In accordance with this law, a stock exchange will be established to sell and purchase securities. This stock exchange will be called the "Baghdad Stock Exchange," with its head offices in Baghdad. The Baghdad Stock Exchange will have corporate status and enjoy financial and administrative independence. The stock exchange will be considered a nonprofit public establishment and its dealing with others will be considered commercial. To achieve its objectives, the Baghdad Stock Exchange will enjoy the exemptions and facilities enjoyed by government departments.

The purpose of the stock exchange—as stipulated in Article 52 of the law —is to organize and control the circulation of, and dealings with, securities in a way that will guarantee the safety, legality, ease, velocity, and accuracy of these dealings and thereby protect the national economy and the interests of the dealers.

The purpose of the stock exchange is also to organize the work of the (?brokers) dealing with securities, to define the rights and commitments of the involved parties and the ways to protect their legitimate interests, to develop savings, to enhance investment by encouraging investment in the field of securities, and to gear savings in the interest of the national economy.

MENA Reports UN Team Work in Baghdad

NC1208103391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (MENA)—Wolf Butler, head of the second UN team searching for Iraqi missiles, has told MENA in Baghdad that equipment for missile production would be destroyed during the team's current visit to Iraq.

Butler said that any missiles or equipment discovered by the team during this visit will be destroyed, adding that equipment was discovered during the team's inspection tour of some sites the day before yesterday [10 August]. He stressed, however, that the team has not yet uncovered any Iraqi missiles.

The correspondent says that the team continued its mission to search for missiles today. Sixty-two al-Husayn missiles were destroyed during the first team's visit to Iraq in July.

The 18 member UN member led by Butler arrived in Baghdad on 8 August.

Readiness for Two-Phased Hostage Deal Reported

TA1308150491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Despite expectations, Shamir did not hold a tripartite meeting with Ministers Arens and Levi today. Instead, he settled for telephone consultations. Uri Lubrani, who is coordinating the hostage release moves, met with Prime Minister Shamir this morning. At that meeting, they finalized Israel's position on future contacts, as it is to be presented tomorrow to the UN secretary general.

Although no details were forthcoming, the following is the gist of Israel's stand, as outlined by political sources. The principle that will guide future contacts is that Israel demands concrete information on the condition of its POW's and MIA's. If such information is received, Israel will be ready to make some gestures; that is, to release detainees. At present, the lack of information on the condition of the POW's and MIA's prevents all progress, the sources said.

The Israeli stand implies that Israel will inform the UN secretary general that it is ready to enter a two-phased move toward a release of hostages and kidnapped persons. In the first phase, it will receive information or a sign of life from the hostages, in return for which it will make some gesture—possibly the release of detainees or a firm undertaking to do so. In the second phase, all the hostages will be released by all the parties involved.

The political sources stressed that the situation is far from simple. The contacts are intricate, and so far no one has actually promised that Israel would receive information about its POW's and MIA's. The intense contacts continue, however, and the cautious optimism has not faded.

Team To Convey Flexible Position

TA1408044491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] A three-man Israeli delegation leaves for Geneva today for talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. The team has been coached to say Israel will be flexible on starting talks on a prisoner-hostage swap. Details from reporter Miryam Herschlag:

The three members of the team are emissary Uri Lubrani, adviser to the prime minister on hostages Uri Slonim, and Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Yohanan Bein. The team has been instructed to convey that Israel is prepared to be flexible as soon as there is concrete and reliable information on the condition or fate of Israeli missing and captive soldiers. The Israeli emissaries will say that Israel is willing to start negotiations on a prisoner exchange immediately upon getting that information.

Qol Yisra'el's Yo'el Nir quotes sources in Jerusalem as saying Israel is prepared to discuss releasing up to about 300 Lebanese Shiite prisoners. It is seeking, for example, a videotape of captured navigator Ron Arad and upon receiving that would be prepared to release in return about 50 Shiite prisoners. The highly revered Shaykh 'Ubayd is, in this grizzly game, considered a prize bargaining chip and, as such, will be held until the last stage of any wide-scale swap.

Defense Spokesman on Jibril Remark

TA1308202091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril has said that he knows of three Israeli soldiers held alive in captivity, three dead, and one missing. Jibril, head of the terror organization Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, made this remark this evening in an interview with the U.S. CNN network in Damascus.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in reaction to that statement, the defense minister's media adviser said that Israel is awaiting solid proof from the UN secretary general, whose efforts it values very much.

Denies Report on Freeing of 'Ubayd

TA1308152791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, has denied an IRNA report that said that Israel will release Shiite leader Shaykh 'Ubayd and that he will be home by Saturday. Nave made a public statement that Israel will free Lebanese detainees only in a deal that would include Israel's POW's and MIA's.

Shamir Aide on Freeing Detainees

JN1308162891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of Prime Minister's Office, by Yehudit Budek; from the "With the Events" program; place and date not given; italicized passages are Ben-Aharon remarks, recorded in Hebrew with passage-by-passage Arabic translation; processed from the Arabic]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held telephone consultations today with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levi to crystallize Israel's position on the proposals made by the UN secretary general in his meeting in Geneva with Israel's representatives Uri Lubrani and Yohanan Beyn.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, spoke about Israel's position:

Our position is known and firm. We have prisoners held by various parties in Lebanon, and we want them back. As part of a comprehensive deal, we will be ready to release

detainees in Israel to end the issue of the prisoners, the hostages, and the kidnapped held by various terrorist groups in Lebanon.

Has Israel formed the responses it will present to the UN secretary general?

We are doing so these days, and our position will be in line with what I have already said about our policy on the kidnapped and the hostages. It is difficult to know whether the Shiite organizations have changed their position, because the letter they sent to the UN secretary general is comprehensive, and we have to wait for some time to know.

Are you afraid that Israel will come under international pressure to make a gesture of goodwill?

I think there is no room for such fears. Some expect us to make such gestures because we have a card: namely a number of Shiite detainees. But those who seek wise action should wait until we reach understanding on a comprehensive package that completely ends this affair.

What is the next step in the contacts?

I believe that we will convey our position, if we are asked to. Afterward, we will wait to see whether the recent release of the two hostages will mark the beginning of a phase that ultimately leads to the release of all the hostages.

Comment Sees Bias in Calls for Israeli Gestures

TA1308120791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Aug 91 p A12

[Commentary by Yisra'el Rosenblatt: "Even Shaykh 'Ubayd Laughed"]

[Text] Were the whole world really against us, Israel would have been accused of being directly responsible for the abduction of the Western hostages in Lebanon. Because it is not against us but merely not for us, we are seen as suspects who must constantly prove their innocence through an endless series of gestures.

We have always been the exclusive address for gestures in this part of the world where "the new order" will soon begin operating; never mind that nobody really knows what "the old order" was all about. In terms of ability and potential, we are a superpower when it comes to gestures.

The gesture policy embraced by the enlightened Western world is governed by the axiomatic principle that "all hostages and prisoners are equal, but Israel's are less equal than others." That is why Tami Arad, to cite just one example, can be left to wait forever for the return of her husband Ron, just so that the Western hostages can come home soon.

In this cynical game, the "bad guy" Israelis must be offset by "good guys." The Syrians, of course.

Until a year ago, the U.S. Administration was still calling Syria a "terrorist state." The leaders of "Terror International" in Damascus are now completing their career change. The state-endorsed gangsters have become compassionate mediators negotiating deals for the release of prisoners, documented in a moving and well-photographed ceremony at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

For years, Syria argued that it had no influence over the gangs of murderers and saboteurs roaming the streets of Beirut and that, consequently, it could not help release the Western hostages. In the meantime, however, Syria has undergone a miraculous metamorphosis: Less than 72 hours after he was abducted in Beirut, Frenchman Jerome Leyraud was sent back to civilization.

At long last, there is order in the Syrian protectorate of Lebanon, especially when it is followed by immediate political reward.

British Minister of State Douglas Hogg demanded that Israel release a few Lebanese detainees as a gesture toward the abductors. One would expect a self-righteous body like the Foreign Office to come up with a more constructive initiative. For example: that Britain release Salman Rushdie, the most oppressed writer on earth, from house arrest—a gesture that would probably be heralded by the Iranian Government and its knife-wielding henchmen, just back from anatomy studies in France.

The British also hastened to affirm that "**all** the detainees are hostages." Such symmetry was designed to make it clear that Israel is not holding Shiite terrorists, but members of the Sheffield Salvation Army Band.

The British declaration was neither accidental nor exclusive. On Sunday, President Bush hastened to emphasize that "**all** the hostages are innocent."

Even Shaykh 'Ubayd laughed.

Agreement on Delegation as Week's Talks End

TA1308090591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Israeli officials capped a week of talks with three visiting U.S. representatives last night, but according to sources in the Prime Minister's Office, no agreement was reached regarding the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference scheduled for October.

The issue of the delegation has been the thorniest part of a proposed memorandum of understanding. U.S. officials were "only authorized to listen" to Israeli concerns and report to Washington without negotiating, Israeli officials said.

The officials refused to confirm reports that Secretary of State James Baker himself would return to the region next month to negotiate the document.

Israel wants written assurances of promises it believes it received from Baker during six earlier trips here regarding the procedures of the Middle East conference, the nature of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, and a reaffirmation of past pledges Washington has made.

The U.S. officials returned to Israel yesterday evening after holding talks with Jordan on the Palestinian delegation. Israeli officials said they were told very little last night about Amman's position. Last Friday, the U.S. officials held eight hours of talks with Palestinians in Ramallah, and there was no sign of a breakthrough on this front, either. [passage omitted]

Outrage at U.S. Talk of Self-Determination

TA1408083191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 91 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] In the memorandum of understanding that will be issued prior to the peace conference in October, the United States will promise the Palestinians that it supports their right to self-determination. This issue was discussed at length in the talks Secretary of State Baker's advisers held with Palestinians in East Jerusalem and in Jordan.

The exact formula in support of self-determination is still being discussed by the United States and the Palestinians. Information reaching decisionmakers in Jerusalem shows that the U.S. officials are looking for a formula that will not specifically contradict the commitments given to Israel whereby the United States would oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state as an outcome of the negotiations.

Israeli decisionmakers are outraged by these deliberations which are hindering progress toward the finalization of a memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States. When Bush and Baker return from their respective vacations at the end of the month, they will be called upon to decide on the matter.

Secretary of State Baker will return to the region next month to conclude the memorandums of understanding and the letters of assurances which the administration will issue to all the parties invited to the conference.

[A report by the political correspondent on page 2 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 14 August adds that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday told visiting U.S. Senator Bennett Johnston: "We do not know what the outcome of the political negotiations will be, but we know for a fact that if there are no negotiations there will not be progress toward peace either. We want peace, and that is why it is important that direct negotiations should start with all the Arab countries. The negotiations will not be easy, but we are determined to sit with our neighbors and try to attain some results."]

Palestinians Accuse IDF of Deliberate Killings

TA1408060891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Report by correspondent in the territories Udi Segal]

[Text] Palestinian notables representing every central PLO faction in the territories have issued a formal protest against what they term the deliberate killing of Palestinians by the Israeli security forces. In a manifesto made public at a news conference, they listed five cases in August in which territories Arabs were killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. The Palestinians contended that this reflects a policy designed to intensify hostility in a bid to harm the peace process. They issued a call for pressure to be put on Israel regarding this. Faysal al-Husayni referred to the recent incidents and to the rise in disturbances in the territories:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] When the intifadah rages and stones are thrown, they say: Why do this? Let us discuss peace. And then, when no stones are thrown, they say: Look, the intifadah is dead; why talk about peace? I am not saying there is a link between these two things, but I am certain that it is necessary to examine whether the [IDF soldiers'] conduct is in accordance with the barest rules of the book. [end recording]

The defense establishment dismissed these allegations: We are not trigger-happy, they said. Official Army sources said that the rules of engagement have not changed and that IDF soldiers open fire when required by circumstances and in accordance with pertinent regulations.

It should be noted that the number of Arabs dying in internecine killings in the territories still exceeds the number of Arabs killed by security forces' gunfire. This remains true despite the latest call for a reassessment of the Palestinian national struggle. Faysal al-Husayni admits that the leadership does not fully control the Palestinian public:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] Our rule is not very strong. It will be strong only after liberation. After liberation, we will be able to prevent all these things, but now, we do not have enough power to stop all these things. This is the story; this is the tragedy. [end recording]

Residents of the territories attribute the intensified disturbances and the rise in street violence over the past two weeks to the fact that high school students have completed matriculation examinations and to inciting activities by certain elements opposed to the peace process.

Palestinian Party Leader Refused Travel Permit

TA1308103491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 91 p A4

[Report by the correspondent in the territories and Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The Shin Bet has turned down a request from a leading member of the Palestinian National Unity Party, recently established in the territories, to travel to Jordan and Saudi Arabia to raise funds for his party.

Kamil Tabanjah [name as published], a resident of Qatannah in the Ramallah District, recently applied for permission to travel to Jordan, but was told by the Civil Administration in Ramallah that a computer check had revealed that he could not be granted permission to travel due to security reasons. Three days later, Tabanjah was summoned to the Shin Bet offices in Ramallah, where he was told that owing to the fact that he had been released in the prisoner exchange deal with Ahmad Jibril, he could not travel to Jordan. Tabanjah was released after serving several years in jail on charges that he had opened fire on a bus near Ma'ale Hahamisha.

Tabanjah argues that he asked the Shin Bet investigators why they would not allow him to travel to Jordan, while other terrorists who had been released together with him and well-known intifadah activists are allowed to travel to Jordan and other destinations overseas, but he did not get an answer. Tabanjah claims that the Shin Bet's refusal is extremely odd, because the Palestinian National Unity Party objects to the idea of an "armed struggle" and supports a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through peaceful means.

The Palestinian National Unity Party, which began operating openly in the territories following the reassessment of the intifadah, includes hundreds of activists in the West Bank. Its members recently submitted a memorandum to the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem asking to be included in the peace process.

Security sources noted that political activity and organization in the territories is banned by law.

Trial Launch of Barak Missile Set 'Soon'

TA1408083991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 91 p 10

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] Preparations are under way for the launch of the Barak missile.

The Barak was developed jointly by Israel Aircraft Industries and Refa'el [Armament Development Authority] to meet the Israeli Navy's needs. A foreign country is helping finance the project and will be paid back with missiles for its own navy.

The Barak is a defensive antimissile and antiaircraft missile. Preparations for the first sea trial of the missile are in high gear. The trial will take place soon.

Shamir—Golan Remains Integral Part of Country

TA1308114491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has promised heads of the Golan Heights settlements that they will be incorporated in teams preparing Israeli positions for the regional conference. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a meeting in Jerusalem, Mr. Shamir told the Golan leaders that they need not worry about the status of the Golan Heights as an integral part of Israel. He promised to visit the area soon.

UNIFIL Men Wounded in South Lebanon Blast

TA1108100291 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 91 p 10

[By David Rudge]

[Text] Three Nepalese UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously, in a bomb blast at the entrance to a UN lookout post near Yatar village in south Lebanon yesterday morning.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said it appeared the explosive device had been aimed at the members of the peacekeeping force.

It was the third deliberate attack on UNIFIL troops in the past week.

The three were evacuated to UNIFIL's hospital at the force's headquarters in al-Naqurah, where the two badly hurt soldiers, suffering from severe shrapnel injuries, underwent surgery. Their condition was reported to be serious, but stable. The third soldier was lightly hurt.

According to UN sources, the incident was probably sparked by local disputes that bore no relation to events taking place in Lebanon, nor the release of British hostage John McCarthy.

The sources said UNIFIL was conducting inquiries into the incident in an effort to find the perpetrators. By last night, no organization had claimed responsibility for the incident.

On Friday night, a hand grenade was thrown into the headquarters compound of UNIFIL's Norwegian battalion in the village of Ibil al- Saqy, not far from Marj 'Uyun. A local civilian was reported injured.

The UN sources said it appeared the grenade attack may have been carried out by "certain armed individuals" who objected to being stopped and searched at UN checkpoints in the area.

The sources said the tension in the region was one of the main reasons UNIFIL had gone on hijack alert, following reports that a Finnish officer had been seen getting into a civilian car in the Ibil al-Saqy area. The supply officer, however, showed up half an hour later safe and well.

Last week, two Katyusha rockets were fired into a Finnish UNIFIL position in Frun village, apparently in retaliation for a South Lebanese Army attack near a UN position, in which two villagers were killed.

A senior UNIFIL officer said it appeared the attacks were related to local disputes.

SLA Soldier Killed by Bomb North of Zone

TA1308115291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was killed in Kafr Hunah, north of the security zone, when a bomb hurled at an SLA patrol exploded.

Another bomb exploded in the village of Yarun on the border of the security zone, wounding a Lebanese policeman. A third bomb was dismantled by an SLA crew without causing injuries.

Sources Say No Official Soviet Appeal for Ties

TA1108085891 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Aug 91 p 6

[By Eliyahu Zehavi from Copenhagen]

[Excerpt] Despite the announcement by Israeli television last Friday that diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR will be resumed next month, no official reports pointing to such a Soviet intention have been received yet. This was stated yesterday by official elements in the Foreign Ministry. In Moscow too, there has been no official comment on the Israel television report.

According to the Foreign Ministry elements, Israel knows that the Soviet Union intends to renew relations, but there has been no official appeal on the matter. "We know of such a Soviet intention," a Foreign Ministry official said, "but we do not know about a concrete date." It is known in Israel that during the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Moscow the Soviet leaders reiterated their willingness to resume relations with Israel before the convening of the peace conference.

Foreign Minister David Levi is expected to meet his Soviet counterpart, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, at the UN General Assembly in September, but it is estimated in Israel that if a Soviet appeal on the resumption of relations is not received before this meeting, the official act of renewal of relations will take place only after the UN General Assembly session. [passage omitted]

Soviets Agree to Direct Flights

TA1308134991 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Aug 91 p A10

[Report by Arye Bender]

[Excerpt] "Soviet aviation authorities, including the directors of Aeroflot, have for the first time agreed to operate direct flights for immigrants to Israel," Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz disclosed last night in a phone call from Kiev.

Dinitz said that the flights would leave "from all locations in the Soviet Union." He believes the first flights will begin even before full diplomatic relations have been established between the two countries. "I think it is only a matter of days," Dinitz noted. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Delegation Meets PRC Officials

TA1308135991 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Aug 91 p A11

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] A Labor Party delegation headed by Knesset Member [MK] Arye Eli'av has ended a two-week visit to the PRC.

Other members of the delegation were MK Eli Dayan; Masha Lubelsky, head of the Histadrut-affiliated Na'amat women's organization; and Yisra'el Gat, chairman of the Labor Party's foreign relations department.

The delegation conferred with prominent officials in Beijing and other cities. Among others, it met Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang and Zhu Liang, director of the CCP's International Liaison Department.

The most important meeting, however, was with Wu Xueqian, a CCP Politburo member and vice premier, and a key foreign policymaker in China.

Wu emphasized the need to promote and accelerate bilateral contacts for the establishment of diplomatic relations. He noted that he regards the visit of the Labor Party delegation as a landmark on the way to building a bridge between the two peoples and countries.

The Labor Party delegation invited its Chinese hosts to send a delegation to Israel next November as honored guests of the Labor Party.

Taiwan Exhibit 'First Public Admission' of Ties

TA1208102591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 91 p A5

[By Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpt] For the first time, in two months three Israeli companies will participate in an arms exhibition in Taiwan. The participation of the Israeli companies in the show will constitute a first public admission of the

defense ties between the two countries, the details of which have been published in international media over the past several years.

The three companies attending the exhibition, which focuses on electronic warfare, are Refa'el [Armament Development Authority], Elta Electronic Industries, and Elisra Electronic Systems. They will present an array of weapon systems for naval, ground, and airborne application. They will also exhibit active jamming systems which disrupt enemy radar and surface-to-air missiles. The U.S. Army made extensive use of such systems during the Gulf war. The companies will also display electronic systems to aid intelligence gathering, antimissile systems, and radar systems.

A Taipei newspaper has recently reported that Israel Aircraft Industries and the Government of Taiwan signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the sale of 40 Israeli-made Kfir fighter jets to the Taiwan Air Force. According to the report, the deal includes 36 single-seaters and four double-seaters. The deal is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Support for Nuclear Arms, Transfer

TA1408082091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Aug 91 p B7

[Report by Alex Doron]

[Text] Israel must develop a nuclear bomb, pronounced a majority of those polled by Professor Asher Arian from the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. The university gazette reports that the survey was carried out close to the end of the Gulf war. Some 91 percent of the interviewees replied that Israel should develop nuclear weapons versus 78 percent in a similar poll four years ago.

"There has been an astonishing rise in the number of people opting for the use of nuclear arms," noted Arian. Some 88 percent replied that they can live with the use of nuclear weapons compared to a mere 53 percent who said so in 1987 and 36 percent in 1986.

The poll further reveals that Israelis wish to acquire a nuclear capability to deter the Arab countries from resorting to use of nonconventional weapons. The Israelis do not believe that Israel needs a nuclear bomb to overcome the Arabs' greater quantities of conventional weapons.

Some 75 percent of the interviewees in the recent poll were in favor of total disarmament in the sphere of nonconventional weapons, provided the Arabs do the same. The percentage expressing this willingness was smaller with respect to conventional order of battle.

Prof. Arian believes that while the poll reflects a confidence in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] ability to win a conventional war, the confidence in Israel's ability to cope with a nonconventional war was somewhat less resolute.

The poll was conducted among a representative sample of 1,130 Israelis (adult Jews.)

Another finding was that the views of 30 percent of the Israelis on defense-related and political issues changed in the wake of the Gulf war: "The rate is enormous, but no effects of this have been felt very strongly," noted Prof. Arian. "The war accelerated the political polarization. Hawks have become more hawkish, and doves more conciliatory."

The poll also shows that 17 of the 30 percent of people whose opinions have changed now believe that Israel should retain the territories. "There were more people holding this view than those who said that the war had proved that territories are immaterial."

At the same time, there is a continuing rise in the number of people expressing a desire to give up the territories in exchange for peace (58 percent now, versus 45 percent in a similar poll five years ago.)

Half the Israeli public fervently objected to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Arab community in Israel and the territories is perceived by the Israelis as a hostile factor; over 50 percent of the interviewees were in favor of tougher measures against the Palestinians. Some 39 percent said they were favor the transfer of the Arab population.

New Foreign Ministry Department on Disarmament

TA1108134291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Aug 91 p A1

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] In the aftermath of U.S. President George Bush's disarmament initiative, a new department has been set up in the Foreign Ministry to deal with conventional and nonconventional disarmament in the region.

The department will be headed by a former Israeli ambassador to Norway. According to security sources, the new department came into being because it is believed that disarmament will be one of the first issues on the agenda of the peace conference scheduled for October.

Foreign Minister on Attendance at Conference

JN1408090091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Aug 91 pp 1, 24

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur affirmed that Jordan will not go alone to the peace conference. He said: Jordan will not go alone and there will be no separate solution. We are still waiting for the Palestinian response regarding participation in the conference.

Dr. al-Nusur said: Jordan has asked the U.S. delegation, which visited the country recently, to define the U.S. stand—in writing—with regard to the Palestine question, the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Jordan asked the U.S. delegation to be informed of this stand in writing, he said.

Dr. al-Nusur affirmed that Jordan informed the U.S. side that we will not recognize any secret guarantees the United States might give to Israel. He added that Jordan asked the U.S. side to give a written explanation of the Palestinian participation in the first round of the talks, which will be held on at least the level of the foreign ministers of the countries involved. Jordan also asked for written guarantees on the participation of Palestinians from Jerusalem in the second round of the talks.

The foreign minister said that Jordan asked the U.S. Administration to guarantee the rights of the Arabs of the territories that were occupied in 1948.

Regarding the venue and date of the international conference, Dr. al-Nusur affirmed that so far neither the venue nor the date of the conference has been defined. He expects the conference to be convened in October, however.

Al-Masri Views Peace Process, Domestic Issues

JN1208202391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri by Mahmud al-Sharif in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Sharif] Mr. Prime Minister, this government inherited some problems and challenges from the past, and there are new ones. If you allow me, I would like to review them one by one so that you can address them. Concerning foreign debt, we all know that during the Gulf crisis, we stopped payment of all installments dictated by arrangements with creditors in the Club of Rome and the Paris Club. Now that the Gulf crisis is over, how do you expect this issue to develop?

[Al-Masri] This is one of the main problems which this government, in particular, and the country, in general, will face. As you said, we stopped debt and interest payments over the past two years. Now we have to make new arrangements with creditors through the Paris Club and the IMF. This may result in some internal measures that must be reflected in the upcoming budget. Honestly, we are not completely able to meet all of our obligations and we must draw up some plans in cooperation with the world community. As you know, nations around the world depend on each other. When Jordan deals with international institutions, it bears in mind that it exports many things and needs the help and services of banks. If these international institutions put a lot of pressure on us, because of our failure to satisfy their requirements or to meet our obligations, we may face financial and economic dangers to compound the ones we already have.

We, therefore, must approach this matter very carefully, and we perhaps need to make some sacrifices. For example, the IMF says that if you want to meet your obligations—and you must do that—you have to reduce the budget deficit; that is, the gap between expenditures and income must be narrowed. This means many burdens. All this comes at a time when we, for instance, are suffering from unemployment, little income, and the problem of our brothers returning from Kuwait and the Gulf. Jordan's population increased by about 300,000 people over a short period. All these burdens came at once and meant not only financial and economic obligations, but also obligations regarding the infrastructure—our ability to provide services to all the population in the country.

Next week, there will be negotiations with the Paris Club, the London Club, and perhaps the IMF, with a view to reaching an acceptable formula. The result, of course, will be presented to the House of Representatives, because the agreements will be reflected in the budget, which will be prepared within two to three months.

[Al-Sharif] In your answer to the last question, Mr. Prime Minister, you touched upon the issue of the people expelled, or the returnees from the Gulf states, particularly from Kuwait, the connection between this issue and social peace, and the ability of the service agencies to meet the resulting demand. This also has an effect on unemployment. We have been suffering an unemployment problem for some time. We have been promised, or heard, that Kuwait promised it will stop expelling people. But we hear that planes are transporting our sons returning from Kuwait. One feels grief and pain for the fact that Jordan carries such burdens, or is forced to carry such heavy burdens—burdens resulting from our brothers' violation of the most basic Arab, particularly Palestinian, human rights. We hear about our brothers who carry Gaza travel documents, who are wandering around aimlessly in all countries of the world because no country would accept them. Even the country that gave them its document [Egypt] refuses to allow them into that country. My question may be divided into several parts: What measures is the government taking

on the international level to put an end to the flow of returnees who are thrown by those Arab states to us? How are we able to turn the brother returness from a burden on our economy into, perhaps, a productive force by, for example, setting up a bank to encourage them to invest in fruitful and productive projects? Does the state have plans to deal with all aspects of this problem—the human, legal, and economic aspects?

[Al-Masri] You have talked about points that have economic, social, and political dimensions. There is no doubt that what is taking place now—the flood of returnees—is making things in Jordan more complicated. It puts, not only the government, but the whole country in a very difficult situation. We are thinking about how to get out of this problem. We will not have magical solutions or quick answers to this problem. But, in the medium term, we must find solutions. The majority of our brothers in Kuwait have already returned. Most of them are Jordanians, they carry Jordanian nationality and we cannot but welcome them when they decide to return. In the past few months, and through political efforts with Western, friendly, and even Arab governments, as well as with the Arab League itself, we tried to keep, or help those citizens stay in Kuwait. You must have read and heard, and everybody has read or heard, about international efforts and the humanitarian institutions and organizations that have tried to stop such acts, but failed. The majority of these people are now staying in Jordan. Concerning the holders of Egyptian-originated Palestinian travel documents, Egypt now refuses to recognize them. But, there are political dimensions to this. Since we are talking about a conference and about peaceful solutions, we should address this situation very carefully so that Jordan may not be brought to bear intolerable political, not economic burdens. The world community and the Arab countries, which are trying to wash their hands of the Palestinian question, are evading their responsibilities despite all the suffering of these people. However, they must assume them. These people in Kuwait, or elsewhere, clearly show the situation and suffering of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] You have hinted at the budget. I would like to ask about the cut off of Arab aid. A group of nations promised to compensate Jordan for the losses it sustained during the Gulf war and the economic straits it experienced during and after the crisis. I have a two-pronged question: Have the countries honored these pledges, and how is the government going to handle the 1992 budget under the kind of circumstances you described?

[Al-Masri] Once again I say that the budget will be a tough proposition for the government. We hope, though, that we will arrive at the right formula and solution. The nations you referred to have yet to compensate Jordan; they have provided us with very easy-term loans and some grants to help Jordan ride out the difficulties. However, this in itself will not deliver the goods. More than that needs to be done. We will have another try. Regrettably, I must say the economic side and the financial aspect—aid, I mean—are closely bound up with regional politics and the ongoing [peace] efforts. Financially speaking, we have hard times ahead of us and this also goes for straightening out the budget.

[Al-Sharif] It seems that quite a few things are bound up with politics. Which leads me to raise the second subject—the topic of the hour, and that is the Middle East peace conference. The man in the street in Jordan is perplexed and skeptical about the prospect of the conference fulfilling decent Arab demands. Pessimists cite a host of factors—the historic ties between the United States and Israel cast their shadow over U.S. intentions; Arab divisions and disarray, that have never been worse in half a century, and skepticism that the world will have the power to bring pressure to bear on Israel. Of course pressure can take three forms: American threats to sever aid, international pressure to slam economic sanctions and a political and diplomatic isolation, and thirdly the pressure of Arab military might, which we know has ceased to exist for the first time since 1948. At least, in the foreseeable future, there is no chance the Arabs will go to war to liberate their territory. With the components of pressure lacking, people are asking, and I am asking on behalf of the public, what chances this conference has given the kind of circumstances I have described?

[Al-Masri] To begin with, people have a right to ask and be perplexed and confused. They are entitled to frustration. There is no denying that the Arab world has never been weaker. This generation has found itself face to face with the reality we are now talking about. As you have pointed out, it is to be regretted that the Gulf crisis has left the Arab world bereft of the assets that it was said to have possessed. We used to say that we had the oil weapon with which to threaten the West, the Arab financial deposits weapon, the military weapon, and Arab solidarity. We had on our side the Soviet Union as a superpower that stood by us and championed our rights and came forward when diplomatic and military support was needed. All these assets are no more. We have lost them all together. On the other hand, the Arabs and Jordan have accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242, which is about a peace settlement. All the Arab leaders and Arab summit resolutions have espoused a peaceful solution as an Arab political plank. I am sorry to say then that the military option has long been dropped. [passage omitted]

Starting in 1973, we began to speak about an international conference. What is a conference? A conference means that the concerned parties meet to negotiate. It seems... [changes thought] The conference has become a part of the Arab policy. It was adopted at all the Arab summits. Every government, and every official who has come to this country or assumed responsibility in this country used to call for Resolution 242 and for an international conference; meaning sitting down and settling the Palestinian cause. This is the second point. The third point is that, unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the Soviet Union are arriving in

Israel. Therefore, the Soviet Union supplies Israel with the human element. The United States supplies Israel with the financial element...

[Al-Sharif, interrupting] Financial and military elements.

[Al-Masri] The Soviet and U.S. human and financial elements pour into the occupied territories in the form of settlements. We fully realize settlements have spread on a large scale. In these circumstances, and under the canopy of international circumstances of which we all are aware and where only one country decides matters, there came that opportunity to settle the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. From this premise, I say that the people who are skeptical about the result of the solution are right, because no one has any guarantees that these efforts will succeed. However, we should say more than one thing in this respect. Negotiation is a kind of confrontation with the enemy. This has taken place in our Islamic history. That is why we should keep this in mind. Second, when we go to the conference—if it is convened—we will not, of course go there to sign. When you go to a conference, it does not mean you will sign everything. We are going to demand the core of Arab demands; namely, the return of the occupied Palestinian territories. Third, when any delegation goes, we must ascertain that we go armed with the knowledge that we have behind us longstanding pan-Arab, demographic, and civilized traditions. We are an Arab and Islamic nation that exists on this earth. We are going to negotiate, or to speak with an enemy which has a small piece of land. It is true, it now has the upper hand in the region....

[Al-Sharif, interrupting] In the occupied territories.

[Al-Masri] But our Arab and Islamic history witnessed difficult times as the present time. However, the Arab nation overcame these difficult times. Why? Of course, the Arab nation overcame these times with resolution and faith. I believe that faith and resolution do exist. Our Arab people overcame these difficult times thanks to their roots and to their clinging to their land. It is impossible to cancel the Arab nation. Those who think about this are mistaken. All nations experience hardships at some time in their history. We are passing through difficult times now. But if they are live nations and we are such a nation, I do not believe that Arab presence can be negated, regardless of Israeli might.

I say this while I am not very pessimistic about the future. Going to the conference does not mean the success of the conference. There are international circumstances, despite America's support for Israel, as you mentioned. We cannot deny the fact that America is the first supporter and friend of Israel. However, we should also think of the alternatives. The most dangerous thing we are facing now, Mr. Mahmud, is the settlement onslaught in the West Bank and the occupied territory. As a result of this, if this cancer continues to spread in the occupied territory, this means that Israel is planning—and it might have been planning for a long time—but, it certainly does not have much time to expel the Palestinian citizens from their lands. [sentence as received]

[Al-Sharif] They write about the transfer openly in their newspapers....

[Al-Masri interrupting] Exactly, if this happens, you have to consider that the Palestinian question, and dealing with it, will be postponed for generations....

[Al-Sharif interrupting] Unlimited.

[Al-Masri] This will have serious repercussions on Jordan.

[Al-Sharif] On the East Bank here.

[Al-Masri] Therefore, we should maintain these ideas in our mind when we speak and explain things. How will the situation in Jordan be as a result of not embarking on this solution we are discussing. What are the Palestinian repercussions on Jordan? What are the international repercussions on Jordan? We said that Jordan is shackled by debt, imports its oil and wheat, and has one port on the Red Sea that might be closed any moment. Until now, almost all our borders are paralyzed.

In the absence of the five Arab cards, which we talked about and which ended, I believe we should be realistic. I do not blame the people and I am one of them. However, there is idealism in this country. We have reached a point where we should deal with realism. There should be a convergence point, at this time, between idealism, which we dream of, and realism, which we are facing.

If we succeed as one team in the country—all institutions and all political fronts—in finding the suitable equation to reconcile idealism and realism, even in the distribution of roles, this will be accepted and we should follow it. However, nobody can say I reject this, without presenting an alternative or without thinking of the next month or next week.

[Al-Sharif] The problem, Mr. Prime Minister, is that the people's pessimism is not caused by idealism. This pessimism is based on realistic calculations. The U.S. exerts efforts to convene a conference through putting pressure on the Arab side, in response to many Israeli demands. The issue of Jerusalem shall be postponed, the PLO is not allowed, the right to self-determination is postponed, we will speak about autonomy, and settlement building will not be stopped. You feel that the beginning is not a sign of happy endings, because of the party which is leading the process—the United States. This party should lead in the name of international legitimacy, recognizing Palestinian rights, and the exchange of land for peace. It begins to exert pressure on the Arab side to make it change its stand to be in harmony with the Israeli intransigence and stubbornness. If these are the beginnings of such a conference,

what will be its endings? People's calculations and pessimism are based on a view, which is not totally idealistic, but it is a realistic view. I agree with you that, in light of the current regional, Arab, and international situation, Jordan, perhaps, cannot shoulder the responsibility of absolute rejection of this appeasement. But, as I understood, Jordan is entering this experiment, not guaranteeing decisive results, but it feels that it is perhaps giving peace an chance. It does not want to be the first to reject a march, and consequently, have a negative effect on its situation and potential. Jordan enters the conference with open eyes, without deceiving itself. Is my understanding correct?

[Al-Masri] This is true, but it is part of what I have meant. What I want to say is that anyone who goes to the conference—and I repeat: if the conference is held—will go to demand Arab rights, Palestinian rights, and the Israeli withdrawal. As to the extent of the success of this opportunity or the efforts that will be exerted, this will be known later. We cannot pass any judgment now. However, I would like to reiterate that the citizens, who listen to this dialogue, should pause and think. Suppose Jordan refuses to go to the conference and suppose the Palestinians refuse to go to the conference.

[Al-Sharif] What will be the consequences?

[Al-Masri] What will be the consequences? I am certain that we will not reach a unified conviction. However, our skill lies in our reaching a formula by which we can overcome this impasse dilemma. This is because what is coming is very dangerous to the region and the Palestinian cause.

[Al-Sharif] For us and for the Palestinians?

[Al-Masri] Exactly. In the past, we tried certain methods, we dealt with Israel in a certain way. Perhaps now we are forced to deal with Israel in this manner. Furthermore, can Jordan really bear the burdens of the Palestinian cause? Jordan had to bear much—it had to. Jordan's position is completely different from that of any other Arab country. The Palestinian cause, and developments and events in the occupied territory, will negatively or positively affect Jordan before any other Arab country. Can Jordan bear all these burdens alone in its present position with it limited resources that are known to everyone and given the circumstances that overwhelmed it both before and after the Gulf crisis?

That is why I spoke to you about the issue of realism or the issue of Arab solidarity. In the past we adhered to Arab solidarity. Now the Arab world—the Arab parochialism—is obvious to everyone. Every Arab country is engaged in its own affairs.

[Al-Sharif] The pan-Arab dimension disappeared.

[Al-Masri] To our deep regret. The Arab East—not everyone, some Arab countries like Jordan—shouldered more burdens than they could cope with. Therefore this is the reality and this is the situation.

[Al-Sharif] Arab coordination is very conspicuous by its sheer absence, Mr. Prime Minister. The Israeli agenda in the conference is understood, well-known, declared. It is amazing that the four Arab countries concerned—Jordan, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, although Egypt has no problems but is in the process nevertheless—are not trying to meet to coordinate among themselves. The absence of this coordination makes one wonder if this is not as much negligence as it is a plan by some to find separate solutions. For instance, there is a real fear that the entire peace process might end by finding a Syrian-Israeli solution in the Golan and that this solution will be at the expense of the Palestinian side, as happened at Camp David. What are your views on this coordination issue? Is there really a fear that the worst might happen, as I have pointed out, concerning a Syrian-Israeli settlement?

[Al-Masri] As I have pointed out at the beginning, this is the phase of difficult questions and limited alternatives for Jordan. All the points that I raised on the domestic and foreign issues demonstrate the extent of the difficulty in the Jordanian situation and the delicate problems that Jordan is facing.

Our line is well-known. Even before the Gulf crisis, Jordan had been known to be Arabist and a coordinator, making visits and contacts. We still support any Arab meeting. We demand coordination, we tried to coordinate, and we want coordination. Unfortunately, this did not materialize as we wanted it to materialize. I do not want to elaborate much on this issue.

As for separate solutions, I am certain that Israel will endeavor to realize this aim. Perhaps when it stressed certain issues related to the conference, it intended to reach separate solutions. However—you mentioned Syria by name—if this is Israel's aim, I do not believe that this is Syria's policy. Absolutely not. I believe that everyone is convinced that a comprehensive solution must be achieved—a comprehensive solution on all fronts.

[Al-Sharif] Dealing with all the dimensions of the dispute.

[Al-Masri] Exactly. One of the most important fronts is the Palestinian front. There will be no solution to any problem if there is no solution to the Palestinian question. The region will remain as it is. The problem is neither in the Golan nor in the few kilometers which Jordan speaks about; the problem is in the Palestinian question, because it deals with a land and a people. Israel wants to evict these people and to seize the land to make it part of Greater Israel. Therefore, I do not believe in the possibility of reaching separate solutions. Neither Syria nor Jordan, certainly, adopt such a belief.

[Al-Sharif] It seems time is running out, Mr. Prime Minister. My last question deals with the issue of Palestinian representation. We read in the newspapers about conditions put forward by the PLO through President

'Arafat recently. These conditions show a hardline position—not a hardline, but rather a determined position by the Palestinian side, demanding to have a role and guarantee certain results before entering the peace process. The Palestine National Council will meet in September. Sometimes, a question springs to the lips. What if they decide not to take part in the conference? What will be the fate of the conference itself if the Palestinian side refuses to have a role in it? What will be Jordan's position in this case?

[Al-Masri] Again I say that the Palestinian dimension is the basic one in all these issues, this solution, or this conference. Therefore, I can realize the difficult position that the PLO is facing—Jordan is also facing a difficult position. However, the decision will be for the Palestinians. They have the right to decide. If they decide to go to the conference, well and good; if they decide not to go, it will be their right to do so. But what will be the result?

[Al-Sharif] In case they refuse.

[Al-Masri] Yes, in case they refuse. First of all, I can say that Jordan will not enter the conference as an alternative to the Palestinians, because the Palestinians should be chosen by the Palestinians and they are the owners of this right. Jordan will not be a substitute for them.

The question remains: Will Jordan go to the conference or will it not go? This is because if Jordan goes, it will go to tackle only the Jordanian dimension of the issues at hand. Nobody is authorized to discuss the Palestinian dimension other than the Palestinians. So far, Jordan has not made a decision on this, and it does not have an answer to this question.

Now, will the conference, as a whole, convene or will it not convene? I also do not know, because this depends on many parties. This depends on the United States and the USSR, which have called for the summit. They will review matters and we will see what will happen. However, the important point which should be underscored is that if the PLO refuses to go to the conference, or within a joint delegation, Jordan will not be an alternative to them in representing their interests regarding the Palestinian dimension.

[Al-Sharif] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for this enjoyable discussion and we wish you success.

[Al-Masri] Thank you.

Editorial: No Choice But To Join Peace Process

JN1408062591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Reality in Peace"]

[Text] Except for some exceptionally brave words from His Majesty King Husayn on the need to establish Arab-Israeli peace, and for the arrest of an armed fundamentalist group threatening the security of the state, Jordanians have been marking the weeks leading up to the October Middle East peace conference quietly and reflectively. We do not seem to know what to expect from the historic and momentous change that is closing in on us.

The technical team of experts that the U.S. Administration has sent to the area to draw up memoranda of understanding on the planned conference was in Amman on Aug. 11 and 12 having visited with the Israelis and West Bank Palestinians. They went back to Israel and the occupied territories and then headed for home with neither side saying anything about the substance of the discussions. The kind of officials they talked with here, however, suggests that technical issues rather than matters of principle were tackled. Technicalities probably involve the names of Palestinian delegations in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, its make-up and function, letters of understanding between the U.S. and Arabs and Israelis; but they apparently have more to do with the organisation of the conference itself and subjects to be discussed at that forum than anything else.

The pace of developments preceding the parley has been so quick that a senior Jordanian official had to admit that "we could hardly cope with it." This probably explains the Jordanian and Palestinian quiet and reflective mood over the peace issue so far, though it leaves many questions unanswered about the post-October period.

The official Jordanian thinking has it that the conference should be held because it is the last realistic opportunity to solve the Palestinian problem and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. Except for ceding over half of Palestine to the Jews legally (recognition of Israel) and some Arab legitimate rights (if 242 is not fully implemented and a Palestinian state is not created), Jordan has much to gain and little to lose from realising a solution. At stake is not only continued strife and violence and the spread of extremism and fanaticism in the region generally, if the no-war, no-peace situation carries on. Greater economic problems, more acute water shortages and the total loss of what is left unexpropriated of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories will also be the result.

Jordan, comfortable in the belief that there is no practical alternative to joining the peace process, whose future is uncertain at best, is aware of the opposition's weakness in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the dilemma posed to Palestinians and other Arabs by the exclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from playing a direct role in peace efforts and talks. But what choice does any Arab have of recovering the occupied territories if we are not willing to join this peace offensive, especially when the military option is out for now and most probably for a long time to come?

Back in the early eighties, Jordan was seeking from the Reagan administration a written guarantee that 242 would be implemented in full if Jordan accepted the Reagan peace plan of 1982. Today Jordan does not have that guarantee, but we do have assurances from the

Americans that their interpretation of 242 and 338 is very close to the Arab side's understanding of the two U.N. resolutions, and that U.S. representatives to the Arab-Israeli negotiations will adhere to this interpretation when talks on any particular problem reach a deadlock.

At a joint press conference with the U.S. Secretary of State, James Baker, when they concluded talks in Amman on Aug. 2, the King said that "unprecedented progress" had been made in peace efforts but he must have been mainly referring to the question of Palestinian representation when he said that much work still needed to be done before the concerned parties arrived at the negotiating table.

That question needs to be answered, and we are both hopeful and confident that the PLO will place the higher interests of its constituents, the Palestinian people, above everything else. This should not be seen as another attempt to put pressure on the PLO, for both Jordanians and Palestinians are in on this together and as it is we all have enough pressures to cope with. What is earnestly needed is for everybody to rise to the level of responsibility that would ensure for coming generations the kind of future that we ourselves aspire to.

Reportage on Hostage Situation Developments

Foreign Minister Comments

NC1308123691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker has paid tribute to Lebanon for its efforts in the service of peace and in the release of the hostages. Crocker said he discussed with Foreign Minister Buwayz bilateral relations, the Middle East peace plan, and the hostages issue. He expressed the hope that all the hostages will be released soon without conditions.

Ambassador Crocker handed Minister Buwayz a written message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker regarding the issue of the international Middle East peace conference.

Speaking to reporters about the contents of the message, the minister said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] He briefed me on the latest developments regarding the peace conference and handed me a written message from Secretary of State Baker concerning this issue. We agreed to carefully follow up all the stages pertaining to this conference. He, of course, raised the issue of the hostages. We briefed him on the Lebanese position, which is harmed by the hostages issue. In the wake of the efforts which we are still making to speed up a solution to the hostages problem, we briefed him on our feeling and views that this issue is on the verge of a concrete solution. [end recording]

Official Denies Accord

NC1308131491 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug 13 (AFP) - The recent release of a British and a U.S. hostage in Lebanon was a sign of goodwill by Syria and Iran in a bid to find an overall solution to the hostage crisis, a Lebanese official told AFP Tuesday. The official, who is familiar with negotiations and declined to be identified, said a second U.S. hostage would be released soon, but gave no details.

The official denied press reports that an accord on the hostage issue had been reached. "There has been no agreement on an overall solution, but Iran, in coordination with Syria, has made a first positive step by permitting the release of a Briton and an American as a token of goodwill to reach an overall accord," he said.

He added that news about a secret accord with set dates for the release of hostages and Islamic prisoners held by Israel had been spread by "pro-Iranian groups in an attempt to assuage the kidnappers who felt they were receiving nothing in return for freeing their hostages."

Hizballah on Israeli Captives

NC1308155391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1536 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] A Hizballah official today declared that his party holds two Israeli soldiers and the PLO holds another, while radical Palestinian organizations have the remains of the other four soldiers. The Hizballah official added that it is unlikely that more Western hostages can be released without a reciprocal initiative from Israel. He hoped that Israel would release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

Fadlallah Receives UK Message

NC1408062091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has received UK Ambassador to Lebanon David Thatham. The ambassador stated that he handed Fadlallah a message from UK Secretary of State Douglas Hogg. He said Britain wishes to cooperate with Hizballah to release more hostages. He expressed his optimism over the possibility of making progress in closing the hostages file.

Fadlallah Demands Hostage Release

NC1408095391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and detainees of all nationalities. In an interview with THE MONDAY MORNING, Fadlallah said the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are no longer a military establishment, but rather a very limited body involved in social activities. He noted that the Revolutionary Guards' return to their country depends on regional considerations.

In another development, Fadlallah expressed his belief that Lebanon's willingness to participate in the international peace conference has caused it to lose the card it held and has involved it in a very complex problem, namely, the Israeli octopus. He said Lebanon's acceptance of the international conference was the result of very powerful U.S. pressure.

Touching on the Jazzin issue, he said it will only be resolved when the commander of the South Lebanese Army is recognized and the members of his militia are assimilated, and when all Islamic resistance operations are halted once and for all.

Germans 'Not Included' in 'Imminent' Exchange

LD1408095691 Hamburg DPA in German 0851 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Beirut (DPA)—The two German hostages in Lebanon, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner will, according to Shiite information, only be freed in return

for the release of the brothers Muhammad 'Ali and 'Ali 'Abbas Hamadah, who are imprisoned in Germany. A leading fundamentalist personality affirmed in Lebanon today that the two Germans, who were abducted in 1989, are not included in the imminent exchange of hostages in the Middle East.

The Shiite leader, who does not want to be named, is regarded as well-informed about the hostages situation. [passage omitted] The fundamentalist leader in the Lebanon confirmed that a comprehensive agreement for the release of the Arab detainees in Israel and the Israelis held in the Lebanon is in preparation, which will also ensure the release of the remaining eight Westerners abducted in the Lebanon. The kidnappers have received guarantees from a third party that in return for the release of Briton John McCarthy and American Edward Tracy last week Israel will release dozens of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners. He ruled out the possibility that the first group of prisoners to be released will include the Hizballah leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. [passage omitted]

Hizballah on Conference, Cooperation With Iran

LD1308151291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The seventh annual foreign relations conference of the Lebanese Hizballah Revolutionary Movement ended its work in Beirut by issuing a statement. According to the report of the Central News Unit from Beirut, the statement refers to the present international situation, saying in part: The so-called Middle East peace conference is a conspiracy that aims to destroy the aspirations of the Muslim and revolutionary Palestinian nation.

The same report notes that the [Hizballah] statement invites international organizations to mobilize all their efforts to bring about the release of all the Muslims from the prisons of the Zionist regime. The statement also calls for assistance to, and cooperation with, the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying that the only way to restore the Palestine issue to its original position is for the Muslims to advance on the path of Islam under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of world Muslims.

Defense Minister Orders Additional Deployment

NC1308122891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin has toured a number of villages adjacent to the occupied border strip. He then updated Defense Minister Michel al-Murr on the situation in Zawtar al- Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, where no UN Interim Force in Lebanon troops are deployed. The defense minister issued an order to the Lebanese Army command, instructing it to deploy an Army force in the two villages.

Resistance Claims Bomb Attacks in South

NC1308124491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The Islamic resistance carried out three operations against the Israeli occupation forces and Lahd militia in the south today. The resistance announced that one of its groups exploded a land mine on the road leading to Sujud as an Israeli patrol was passing this morning. The blast destroyed a vehicle and injured or killed its occupants.

At 0830, another group detonated an explosive charge as a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol was passing on Bayt Yahun road. At 1000, a resistance group set off an explosive charge as a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol was driving on Kafr Hun-Jazzin road.

Meanwhile, security sources said that a bomb exploded as a Lebanese police car was passing near Kafr Huna crossing in Jazzin area. A policeman inside the car was killed in the explosion.

'No Other' Westerners Freed Until Israel Acts

NC1408103591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] A high-ranking fundamentalist Muslim source has announced that no other Western hostages will be released in Lebanon until Israel releases some of the Arab prisoners it is holding.

The source told REUTER that Israel is expected to release certain Arab prisoners in return for the earlier release of British hostage John McCarthy and American hostage Edward Tracy. He added that Israel will soon offer something in return for the release of these two hostages.

The source pointed out that two Germans who are being held in Lebanon will not be included in the hostage swap deal. He added that the current active contacts involve five American and two British hostages. He noted that the two Germans have nothing to do with the issue.

Karami on Election Pledge, Hostage Issue

PM1308101491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Aug 91 p 2

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami by Walid Shuqayr and Muhammad Shuqayr in Beirut "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] Let us begin with your promise to hold parliamentary elections next year, even though you know that it takes 18 months to draw up lists.

[Karami] That is a rumor.

[AL-HAYAH] What has changed for you to announce your desire to hold elections, especially since this issue has ostensibly been shelved?

[Karami] By God, you tend to forget; but we do not. We keep our promises. When the subject of parliamentary appointments was raised in implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement there was an uproar, the reason for which we understand, because the Lebanese people were actually accustomed to a life of freedom, democracy, and elections since independence and until the incidents erupted, that is, until 1972 when elections were last held. [passage omitted]

As a state, it is our duty to prepare the legal and security conditions needed to guarantee the holding of such elections. This is why we have said that from now and until the spring there should be complete preparations for holding the elections. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] There is talk about a link between the elections and the withdrawals...

[Karami] What do you mean by withdrawals?

[AL-HAYAH] The withdrawal of the non-Lebanese armies: the Israeli occupation and the Syrian Army. There are groups in the country that believe that holding elections in the presence of these armies would leave them open to dispute. And other groups believe that it is possible to hold elections under the Syrian presence and even under the Israeli occupation's presence.

[Karami] That is ridiculous. If you consider the recent past, when the subject of appointing deputies was raised, you will recall the televised meetings; the heroics; the theories; and lectures on democracy, freedom, and the possibility of holding elections. All these factors (he means the armies) were there, and they still demanded that elections be held. Because we have now started talking about holding elections the obstacles and stories have begun to emerge. It really is ridiculous. This is the first point. Second, that view is malicious, if I may use such a harsh term. We emphasize that you cannot equate the Syrian Army's presence with the Israeli Army's presence. This is unacceptable and is rejected at all levels; we cannot equate them legally, legislatively, or patriotically. We all know how the Syrian Army made sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon's unity and for the sake of what we have so far achieved. And everyone, including those who do not agree with Syria, bears witness to this. Had it not been for Syrian cooperation, we as an authority would not have managed to achieve anything. So no one should tell lies.

Third, the Syrians do not say that they are going to stay. There is the al-Ta'if agreement, and the Syrians say that they did not backtrack on it and did not enter the country as an occupier or usurper. They entered at the request of the legitimate government. Then came the al-Ta'if agreement, which is not Lebanese. It is actually a Lebanese, Arab, and international agreement backed by the Arabs and the world as a whole, especially the United States and the Soviet Union. This agreement contains a timetable for Syrian withdrawal. So why do we put the cart before the horse? They tend to stir up this issue every time. This is why I say that there is malice.

The Israeli issue is the most important one. They, and especially the Americans, have told us: Establish a strong central authority and let the Army prove its credibility in the field, and we are ready to help. Fine, but what has been done in return for what has been achieved over the past seven months, namely, the Army's deployment in the South and the fact that it has proved its effectiveness and credibility? Even in Jazzin—which we regard as a separate issue from Resolution 425—what has the Israeli media's reaction been, and what has the military reaction been? They have deployed troops and equipment. They do not want to withdraw. We always say that there are two roads to the liberation of the South: either the military road via resistance, or the diplomatic road. We told them [not further identified], you have tried your method, now let us try the diplomatic method, and they were persuaded. So why do you want to take this card away from me? So there is no pressure or response. Even in Jazzin, the problem is with Israel, not Syria. Why should we equate them?

[AL-HAYAH] It has been reported that case of General 'Awn will end soon. On what basis? Has something new occurred to accelerate this?

[Karami] I swear that there has been nothing new until now. As you know, the Gen. 'Awn case is a legal one. Undoubtedly it involves a political decision, but so far there has been nothing new. There are talks and demands, and there is also the subject of France and France's honor, and so on. But the meal has not been thoroughly cooked yet. There is discussion. We cannot say that there is no discussion. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The hostage issue was discussed at the recent meeting in Zahlah with the Syrian vice president. Did you request anything from him?

[Karami] (interrupting) By God, nothing concerning the hostage issue was discussed.

[AL-HAYAH] Europe and the West in general are using the hostage issue as an excuse for their hesitation to help Lebanon through the international fund for construction. Is that hesitation based on something political rather than the hostage excuse to which we cannot find an answer?

[Karami] In my view, that is a truth intended to mislead. We, as a state and as a people, have nothing to do with any of these things, as everyone knows. We do not even know where they are, otherwise we would have been the first to secure their release. When they say these things they are actually punishing the Lebanese people twice: once, by all contributing to the incidents that occurred and by spreading weapons, devastation, and destruction; and now they are punishing them for the second time for a crime that they did not commit. In fact they trying to be evasive, using this issue as an excuse. [passage omitted]

Israel Supporters Urged To Adopt 'New Stance'

JN1408060691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 14 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its commentary today, AL-BA'TH writes about Israel's insistence on the policy of aggression, noting enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's reiteration that the Golan—that is, the Syrian heights—is part of Israel. This affirmation coincided with reports from occupied Palestine on positions and plans that are geared toward aggression and expansion.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since it was agreed that 5 October will be the beginning of the forthcoming peace conference, Israel has been creating pretexts and obstacles to close the file of the peace conference. The international community is looking forward to this conference and considers it the starting point to embark on a new stage in the region, and, without exaggeration, in the world, because of our region's important and delicate position.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Everybody knows that Israel does not at all depend on itself; it largely depends—in everything—on others. And here lies the problem. We reiterate that the peace march should begin without obstacles. Israel, as most of the countries in the world admitted, is the obstacle to the sought peace. Therefore, we have the right to ask all those on whom Israel depends to adopt a new stance that would underscore their credibility toward the peace march sought by the whole world, not only by the nations of the region.

Further on Indonesian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets President al-Asad

JN1308202191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his delegation at 1700 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Indonesian ambassador in Damascus.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1408093491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 14 Aug (SANA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his wife left Damascus this morning following a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, the directors of the Asia and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Indonesian ambassador in Damascus and his wife. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rebels, Soviets Agree To Respect Border

BK1308131091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance in the north has agreed not to infiltrate guerrillas into the Moslem-populated bordering republics of the Soviet Union, mujahidin sources said Tuesday.

The first such agreement barring the two sides from interfering in each other's territory was concluded after talks between a three-member mujahidin commission and a Soviet frontier security commission.

Ahmad Zia quoting a radio message from his brother Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, chief of the mujahidin's northern command, said the two sides met at the Eshkashem bridge in Badakhshan Province on the Soviet border.

Zia, who did not say when the agreement was signed, said that in case of any future dispute the two sides agreed to raise a white flag to summon officials to an emergency session at the same bridge to resolve the problem.

Mas'ud, known as the "lion of Panjsher" for defying repeated attempts by Soviet-backed Afghan troops to capture his northeastern valley, is leading a group of resistance commanders in northern Afghanistan.

The commander of the Jamiat-e Eslami faction of the resistance is running his own administration in the districts bordering the Soviet Union. The Jamiat sources said the Soviets felt need for such an agreement after the guerrillas in the north last month captured four strategic places, Zebak, Eshkashem, Sheberghan and Vakhan.

They feared the latest mujahidin victories might lead to their penetration in the Moslem-populated neighbouring Soviet republics.

Vakhan, which also includes part of China, is a most important region known as the corridor to Afghanistan. The Soviets during their 1979-88 occupation of Afghanistan had reportedly annexed the corridor. But they said the Afghan troops could not hold the territory and the local administration surrendered its control to the resistance.

Jamiat sources said the mujahidin commission rejected an earlier Soviet demarcation and the two sides accepted the Oxus river, locally known as Amu Darya, as the joint border.

Stressing that no political or military issues were discussed, they said the delegations will meet again on the question of returning people captured in each other's territory.

Reportage on Launched Rocket Attack on Kabul

21 Killed, 34 Wounded

LD1408080291 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0459 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, 8 Aug BAKHTAR—Twenty one civilians were killed and 34 others wounded as a result of firing of 6 rockets by the extremists on Kabul city today. BAKHTAR reports that one of the rockets hit a city bus which resulted in the tragic loss mentioned above. Those injured were immediately rushed to the hospital.

The rockets were launched from the west direction of the city. Three houses were badly damaged by these rockets in the 6th and 7th precincts of Kabul. Great material losses were also caused to the people's properties.

Defense Mininstry Area Hit, 30 Dead

BK1408082191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 14 (AFP)—At least 30 people were killed when mojahedin rockets slammed into a residential area near the Defence Ministry in northern Kabul, eyewitnesses and hospital officials said here Wednesday.

Most of the casualties occurred at a bus stop about one kilometre (less than a mile) from the Defence Ministry when the first of a barrage of six rockets hit the area at about 5 p.m. (1230 GMT) Tuesday, they said.

One of the rockets hit a bus crowded with commuters, shattering its windows and killing several pedestrians including an elderly cobbler and his two grandsons, they said.

Residents of the area said flying glass from the windows caused most of the casualties, though many were also killed or maimed by rocket shrapnel.

An administrator at the nearby red cross hospital for the war-wounded said the rocket attack appeared to be the worst in terms of casualties since October last year.

Estimating casualties was "difficult" because the wounded were taken to many hospitals, the administrator said.

"We took in 59 people. At least 10 were brought dead on arrival and others were allowed to go home after treatment as outdoor patients," he said.

One of the doctors at the hospital said the red cross's three surgical teams were summoned to the hospital and worked throughout the night.

Bangladesh

Opposition Walks Out To Protest Bill Passage

BK1408062691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 14 (AFP)—Two Bangladeshi opposition groups in parliament staged walkouts during a midnight session to protest what they called government haste to a pass a new bill, house officials said Wednesday.

Members of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League and the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami party protested when Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz tabled the bill, which outlined rules for election of the president by parliament, during a hectic session that continued until 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, they said.

MPs from both groups walked out separately after the minister pressed for passage of the bill under a recent constitutional amendment reverting Bangladesh to a parliamentary system of government after 16 years of presidency.

Some opposition lawmakers had objected to a provision in the new bill providing for the president's election through open ballot, and demanded secret ballots.

Sources said the ruling Bangladesh Nationlist Party (BNP) of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia rejected the demand, and the bill was passed.

The parliament also approved a 5.68 billion dollar revenue budget for fiscal 1991-92.

Referendum on Parliamentary System Slated 15 Sep

BK1208160691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] A referendum will be held on the 15th of next month to ascertain whether or not the acting president should assent to the constitution 12th amendment bill [providing for parliamentary form of government]. Over 34,000 polling centers will be set up so that voters can cast their votes smoothly. Arrangements will be made for separate polling centers for male and female voters where possible, or separate arrangements will be made in same polling center. The voters will put their seal on the symbol of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan [Parliament House] printed on the ballot paper for yes vote, and for no vote on the cross symbol printed on the same ballot paper. The secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat has been appointed returning officer and all deputy commissioners as assistant returning officers for conducting the referendum.

Addressing the nation over radio and television a short while ago, Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rab, said the decision of the referendum will determine the future form of government in the country and as such this referendum bears important significance. It will remain as a milestone for our future generations in our march toward the path of democracy.

The Chief election commissioner expressed the hope that the people will maintain the democratic process by casting their votes spontaneously in a disciplined manner. Justice Abdur Rab called upon the people from all walks of life, including all political parties and workers, to extend their cooperation to the Election Commission to make the referendum a success.

Last Army Batch Leaves To Reconstruct Kuwait

BK1308154891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] About 150 officers and troops comprising the seventh and last batch of the Bangladeshi Army contingent left Dhaka for Kuwait today. The army contingent has been sent to Kuwait for taking part in the reconstruction of the friendly country.

India

Continuing Reportage on BCCI Activities

MPs Demand Early Discussion

BK1308125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] During the zero hour, Mr. Rabi Ray, Janata Dal, and Mr. Ana Joshi, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], demanded an early discussion on the activities of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International—BCCI—in the country. Raising the matter, they drew attention of the house to reports in a section of the press that two former ministers of Uttar Pradesh and some bureaucrats were involved in the bank's scandal. They alleged that the government has not come out with full facts on the bank's activities so far. Mr. Rabi Ray also referred to allegations that the BCCI was behind the assasination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and demanded a full-fledged discussion on the issue.

Commentary Looks Into Allegations

BK1308115391 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Commentary by S. Srinivasan, Principal Correspondent of THE TELEGRAPH]

[Text] Billed as the largest bank fraud in world's financial history, the affairs of Bank of Credit and Commerce International—BCCI—are getting curious. The allegations range from the Bank having links with gun runners, drug dealers, CIA operatives, and nuclear weapons component smugglers, to name a few. The investigators all over the world are now coming out with startling details on the $20 billion bank which was founded by a Pakistan national, Agha Hasan Abedhi, in 1972 with dreams of making it into the biggest bank of the world in 25 years.

Abedhi himself is unable to say anything on his shattered dream as he is fighting to recover from a brain damage caused by repeated heart attacks. The Karachi- based banker founded the bank in Luxembourg with 47 branches, 24 in Britain and others in 12 countries. The BCCI Overseas has 63 branches in 28 countries which include India. The bank has spread its tentacles from Britain to the United States where it is said to have secret stakes over several banks which were being run as its front companies.

The Indian operations of the BCCI has also kicked up a big controversy. The three major allegations against the bank, which has emrged in the Indian newspapers, are that the bank in collusion with the key officials and politicians have diverted tens of millions of dollars from India's economy into its accounts, that the bank was used to fund purchase of arms and terrorist operations, and the bank has misused American aid money for funding Pakistani nuclear programs. The U.S. Senate committee is investigating an allegation that the bank, in collusion with top industrialists and officials, have diverted illegally millions of dollars from India. The revelation was made by private investigator Mr. Michael Hershman, of the Fairfax fame. Mr Hershman, who has worked with the Indian Government, has said that he had collected as far as in 1986, but did not pursue any more as the U.S. revenue officials did not take any interest in the matter. The modus operandi, according to him, was that the slush money was moved through companies. The second allegation is over discovery of some indiscriminating documents from Bombay branch of the bank which were antinational in character. Thirdly, doubts were expressed whether the funds were used to promote Pakistan's clandestine nuclear program. The news reports quoting WALL STREET JOURNAL have alleged that a retired Pakistani General Enamul Haq was arrested by German authorities on July 11th at Frankfurt Airport as he arrived with a phony passport. According to the investigators, the general was accused of evading American customs laws in shipping sensitive and strategic materials. The report says that the documents in the case show that these were financed by units of BCCI.

The opposition parties, which raised the issue in both the houses of Parliament, have demanded a thorough probe into the whole affair, a detailed white paper on the Indian operations of the bank and an institution of a house committee to go to the bottom of the activities of the bank. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has already turned down the demand for house probe into the BCCI affair. According to him, there were no evidences to suggest that the BCCI funds were used to finance terrorists in Kashmir. He said the interests of the Indian depositors were safe as the value of the assets were more than the liabilities.

The investigators all over the world have already started working on the case. The American, the British, and the French investigators have already begun work on the worldwide operations of the bank which is bound to have its impact on India. According to the Indian finance minister the bank was fined in 1986 following revelations that it was releasing foreign exchange against the foreign travel scheme without verifying the signatures of actual travelers. The Directorate of Enforcement, which investigated the case, did not find the material enough to cancel the license of the bank. In 1988, the Directorate of Enforcement again received allegations that the bank was trying to acquire real estates, but after verification the case was closed. But if the way the revelations about the BCCI are going, the trail of one of the biggest frauds will be a long and arduous one.

Rao Trip; No Change in Nonproliferation Stand

BK1308145091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, will pay a three-day visit to Germany from the fifth of next month at the invitation of the chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl. Announcing this, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that during his visit, the prime minister will hold substantial talks with Dr. Helmut Kohl and with other political and business leaders with a view to promoting closer cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister and Dr. Kohl will jointly inaugurate in Bonn, the festival of India on the seventh of September.

There is no change in India's stand on the signing of the nonproliferation treaty. Responding to questions by newsmen, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that New Delhi's views on the signing of the treaty has not changed. He said there is no pressure on us for the signing of the treaty, or to link the signing with any other matter.

Kashmir Mediation Ruled Out; Official Kidnapped

BK1308160491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, branch manager of the New India Assurance Company, Mr. S.L. Khusa, was kidnapped by militants in Srinagar today. Two militants entered his office around 1130, talked to him for some time, and then took him away. No clues are yet available about the identity of the kidnappers and no group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

The government says there is no question of any mediation or use of good offices of or intervention by any third party, including the Commonwealth, in the settling of the Kashmir issue. Responding to queries by newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India hopes to resolve the issue with Pakistan bilaterally under the terms of the Simla Agreement. He said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and a portion of it is under Pakistan's illegal occupation.

The spokesman said India's views were made amply to the British Labor Party MP, Mr. Gerald Kaufman, who was on a five-day visit to India recently. He said the developments in the region, including the Kashmir issue were discussed with Mr. Kaufman. The Government has noted Mr. Kaufman's statements strongly opposing terrorism, violence and kidnapping and his advocacy of a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Kashmir issue.

BJP Candidate Elected Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker

BK1308095891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. S. Mallikarjunaiah has been elected the deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha. A motion sponsoring his candidature was moved by Mr. L.K. Advani, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and seconded by the party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. The motion was carried by 278 votes in favor and 104 against. Another BJP motion proposing his name was moved by Mrs. Vijya Raje Scindia. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, moved the motion proposing the candidature of Mr. Rashid Masud, for the post. This was seconded by Mr. Basudev Acharya, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. Only the first motion moved by Mr. L.K. Advani was put to vote and carried in the house.

As soon as the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, announced the division, the members from the BJP and the Congress-I benches complimented him with thumping of desks, but the National Front and Left parties members visibly criticized the emergence of understanding between the BJP and the ruling party. The leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, and the leader of the Opposition [L.K. Advani] were the first to compliment Mr. Mallikarjunaiah on his election and escorted him to the seat meant for the deputy speaker in the house. Mr. Arjun Singh expressed the confidence that having a very long-established experience of legislative business, Mr. Mallikarjunaiah will work to the satisfaction of all sections in the house. In a remark against the criticism on the floor of the house by the National Front and the Left parties of the BJP and the Congress-I joining hands, Mr. Arjun Singh made it clear that what has been done is only to uphold the convention. Observing that his party is not accustomed to snide remarks, he categorically stated that the Congress-I will never collaborate with the BJP. He pointed out that it was the V.P. Singh government which used the BJP as one of its support basis. Felicitating the new deputy speaker, Mr. L.K. Advani said the Congress-I has set a new tradition which will go a long way in strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country.

While congratulating Mr. Mallikarjunaiah for his election, the leaders of the National Front, Left parties, and their allies had a dig at the Congress-I saying that it did not follow the conventions in the past. Mr. Rashid Masud, who was the other contender for the post, said politics of convenience has given place to politics of convention.

Welcoming Mr. Mallikarjunaiah, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, hoped that the long experience of the new deputy speaker in politics and in the Karnataka legislature will enrich the conduct of the proceedings in the Lok Sabha. Thanking the members for electing him to the office, Mr. Mallikarjunaiah said the country is facing major problems which will be reflected in the house. He sought the cooperation of the members in discharging his duties efficiently.

Assam Releases Bodo Activists; Strike Called Off

BK1408042691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The Assam government has decided to release the Bodo student activists detained under the prevention of terrorist and disruptive activities act and against whom there is no serious charge. To begin with, two of the 73 Bodo student activists detained during the Bodo agitation will be released. Disclosing this at Dispur yesterday, the state government spokesman said one lakh rupees will be paid as exgratia to each of the families of the persons who lost their lives during the agitation.

Meanwhile, the three-member expert committee constituted by the center to look into the Bodo problem arrived at Guwahati yesterday and held discussions with the chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia.

The All Bodo Students Union [ABSU] has agreed to call off its 1,001 hour proposed bundh [strike] due to begin from tomorrow. This follows an appeal by the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, to a delegation of the ABSU which met him in New Delhi yesterday. The delegation was led by the ABSU president, Mr. S.K. Bichumotiari and Mr. Satyandranath Brahmachaudhary, MP.

One Person Killed, 23 Injured in Jammu Blast

BK1308041291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] In Jammu, one person was killed and 23 injured in a bomb blast near the city police station yesterday evening. Two seriously injured persons have been shifted to a hospital in Ludhiana. Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad [students' organization] and the Shiv Sena held demonstration in the city last night in protest against the administration's failure to check such incidents. All educational institutions in Jammu city have been closed for today in view of the bundh [strike] call by the Akhil

Rao Greets Pakistani Leaders on Independence Day

BK1408033291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in separate messages has greeted the Pakistani president and prime minister on the occasion of Independence Day. Mr. Rao said New Delhi has cooperative and

friendly relations with Islamabad as laid down in Simla Agreement. Our Islamabad correspondent reports that there is excitement in the Pakistani capital as the chief of army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, is laying down his office tomorrow.

Iran

Lebanon's Shaykh 'Ubayd Release Possible 'Soon'

LD1308121591 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 13, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese Alim Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, kidnapped and then imprisoned by Zionist forces in the July of 1989, is to be released soon.

An informed Muslim source told IRNA that Shaykh 'Ubayd would possibly be reunited with his family next Saturday.

'Ubayd was kidnapped by invading Zionist troops from his home in Jibshit township in southern Lebanon.

Government Wants Hostages Released Before Apr

NC1308102891 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 12 Aug 91 p 7

[Text] Informed Arab sources have stressed that the Iranian Government wants to see all the foreign hostages in Lebanon released before the onset of the Iranian election campaign in April 1992. This campaign will coincide with the beginning of the Iranian solar calender, which starts on 21 March each year. This will enable Tehran to improve its economic situation by getting access to its funds frozen in the United States. These funds are estimated at $11 billion, according to Iranian calculations. Moreover, the release of the hostages will pave the way for the opening of normal relations between Iran and the United States in the political, economic, and military fields.

These sources believe that the release of British hostage John McCarthy on Thursday came after negotiations between London and Tehran resulted in an agreement under which Britain would sell Asman, a private Iranian company, five giant aircraft. The United States had in the past blocked this deal, which led British industrialists to complain that they would lose $500 million, representing the cost of these aircraft.

At the same time, American companies are holding secret negotiations with Iranian officials for the sale of giant Boeing aircraft once the U.S. embargo on trade with Iran is lifted. Three American oil companies so far have been permitted to buy Iranian oil. The American companies pay for this oil from their funds which were frozen in Iran following the outbreak of the Iranian revolution.

In the past, the United States also had opposed the sale of French Airbus aircraft to Iran as a kind of punishmnent and as part of the embargo against Iran.

British Request for 'Ubayd's Release Welcomed

LD1308140291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The release of three Western hostages of different nationalities in Lebanon last week is regarded as a fundamental development in the hostage-taking affair, rendering a promising prospect—for the first time in the past seven years—in terms of the final closure of this case. Political analysts ascribe this promising prospect to the emergence of a number of developments in the affair. The first development was seen in the captors' goodwill, which they demonstrated by releasing a number of hostages in a very short period, and within brief intervals. Another development was that the captors, by dispatching a letter to the UN secretary general, brought—for the first time—a new factor to this case, as a means of presenting it on an international level as a human and predominant problem, to be resolved through cooperation with the United Nations. The third development in this affair is seen in the shift in the Western countries' stance on the hostage-taking crisis. Pressured by public opinion at home, and also by international conditions, they felt they had to resolve this long-drawn crisis, especially since the people and the political leaders of Western countries have sensed that their governments do possess the necessary levers for finding a rational and correct solution to this crisis.

The recent pressures exerted by a number of Western governments on the Zionist regime, aimed at releasing hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians captured by the Zionist regime, is indicative of the fact that Western governments have grasped the roots of hostage-taking in Lebanon, as well as their ability to resolve it. Meanwhile, one should not neglect the part played by the previously released hostages in these developments, since to a great extent they were responsible for bringing the realities faced by Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian people to the attention of their respective governments, hence accounting for the captors' true motives. Incidentally, the groups of captors, too—because of the shift in domestic public opinion and policies of Western governments—have been trying to provide Western governments with motives and grounds for action, by taking positive and promising initiatives, such as releasing a number of hostages, as well as decisively emphasizing their preparedness to put an end to this crisis, in their letter to the secretary general.

The British Govrnent's summoning of the Zionist regime's minister to London, through the British Foreign Office, and its request for the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was taken hostage by Israeli

commandos on Lebanese soil two years ago, is the first practical initiative made in response to the positive initiative of the Lebanese captors; an action, which in its own way, serves to indicate that Western leaders are for the first time paying attention to the roots and the reasons behind the hostage-taking in Lebanon. In the wake of this international recognition of the Zionist regime as one of the main and fundamental causes of the sad hostage-taking affair, the Tel Aviv leaders have tried to cover up evident facts through adopting various stands, thus placing the present promising prospect under a cloud of gloom and ambiguity. That is, by emphasizing the effects, the Israelis are trying to deemphasize the main causes of hostage-taking—in other words the Zionist regime—thereby freeing themselves from this present deadlock and bottleneck. For this reason, by raising the issue of the fate of seven Zionist officers who were captured by Islamic forces whilst violating villages in southern Lebanese territory, and by linking it to finding a solution to the hostage-taking crisis, they intend to place obstacles on the path of its resolution. The fact is that, hitherto, the West by adopting a unilateral policy in support of the aggressive Zionist regime, has inflicted countless and irreparable losses and damages on Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian nations. Israel, too, by counting on such supports, embarked on occupying Islamic territories, trampling the Palestinian and the Lebanese people under its military boots. Moreover, that regime, deems the just resistance of the people in the face of such acts of aggression—which have been recognized as legitimate rights in accordance to international laws and regulations—as crime and offense, on the basis of which it detains and takes captive thousands of individuals. The West's military and political support for the Zionist regime, and its silence in the face of that regime's acts of aggression and atrocities has caused Muslim nations of the region to believe that there is no difference between a Zionist aggressor and a Westerner, an issue which was perhaps the principle reason behind the taking of Western citizens hostage by elements exasperated with the Zionist regime's aggression and tyranny.

In the opinion of political observers, at present, in view of the said fact which serves to fully clarify the causes and effects of the hostage-taking crisis, it is up to the Western countries, to change their policies in the region, and to review their policies in terms of support for the Zionist regime. Thus, Western countries will be able to divorce themselves from Israel and its atrocities, hence rendering their appearance favorable to the nations in the region. It is certain that any positive response and reciprocal move by Western countries toward resolving the hostage-taking crisis could help those countries earnestly attempting to resolve this human problem, so as to enable them to end this crisis completely and comprehensively, irrespective of the hostages' nationalities.

Onus on U.S., Israel for More Hostage Releases

LD1308201991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The freeing of two Western hostages in Beirut and now the release of the text of the Islamic Jihad's letter addressed to the UN secretary general on the hostages' issue, proposing that the whole problem of detainees and hostages should settled [words indistinct] of this crisis [word indistinct] positive and optimistic.

Upon his arrival in Geneva yesterday, the UN secretary general said: I am now real hopeful of the resolution of the hostages crisis. At the same time, the Islamic Jihad has expressed its willingness to release all of its hostages subject to the freedom of all the detainees. This is under the conditions when Israel, in response to this positive gesture, has not yet changed its attitude concerning nonrelease of nearly 400 Lebanese and Palestinians held captive by it. Since the Zionist regime has come under public pressure for releasing the hostages the trip of that regime's envoy to Geneva and his meeting with the UN Secretary General on the issues of the detainees and hostages, are related to such pressure.

The release of two British and U.S. hostages in Beirut in recent days, and giving priority to the UN role in further continuation of the trend to resolve the hostages crisis, are significant in some respects. The Islamic Jihad's letter to the UN Secretary General has asked him to adopt serious and responsible measures to find a (?suitable) solution and to precisely respond to it. The letter has also noted: Whenever the fate of an American, Western, or Israeli national is at stake, there is created a worldwide clamour with the United Nations and all governments entering the scene in the so-called defense of human rights. But, on the contrary, when the Palestinians are massacred in al-Sabra and al-Shatila camps, and the Muslims are abducted in Lebanon, the UN and such governments do not show any reaction.

In its letter the Islamic Jihad poses this question: How is it that the UN played a key role in relation to the Persian Gulf crisis, but, while finding a just solution to the issue of the Palestinian nation, that world body is ignored?

The letter of the Islamic Jihad, which points to the improper attitude of the United Nations in the past, also depicts the fact that this world body, while keeping itself away from the pressures being brought by the big powers, can independently engage in examining the [word indistinct] issues and without the existing [word indistinct].

Therefore, under these conditions, it seems that present efforts to secure the freedom of the hostages, which at this stage have brought the release of two of them, have paved the way for the trend to continue its desired course with a positive response and practical steps from Israel in relation to the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees. In the absence of such a step, Israel and its Western and US supporters alone will be to blame for any delay [word indistinct] in this process. And they will be answerable to pressure from public opinion.

Interview With Central Bank Governor 'Adeli

LD1408081891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Interview with Dr. 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of Iran, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] The 31st annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held this week and approved the economic report for the year 1369 [year ending 20 March 1991] as well as the financial statement of the Central Bank. Now I would like to ask Mr. 'Adeli, the Governor of the Central Bank, to comment on the economic indices of the year 1369.

['Adeli] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This year, for the second successive year the Central Bank's annual report and financial statement were studied and approved by the General Assembly on time. The fact that after many years these reports are being prepared on time is in itself an indication of a kind of order and discipline in account keeping and in the collection of and research on economic statistics and indices.

In fact the Central Bank's economic report is a report on the figures for the entire country. That is, the results of the activities of everybody in the country, whether being a producer or a consumer, are tabulated at the end of the year and are reflected in these figures and statistics. [repetitive passage omitted].

On economic policies the main developments and changes are as follows: The axes of the Government policies remained that of increased output. Then changes were introduced in policies governing production, and the system of production as well as regulations governing distribution, control, and pricing. Also developments were introduced in foreign exchange policies and foreign trade, imports and exports, expansion of economic cooperation with other countries, the transfer of the ownership of a number of public sector productive units to the private sector, and finally the start of exports of Iranian gas to the USSR after a lapse of 10 years. These were the main developments in the year 1369. Also in that year the earthquake is recorded as a tragic event which has had a negative impact on the economy.

The sum total of these policies has made the country's physical, fiscal, and monetary policies more logical. In various sectors various figures indicate growth and positive developments. In the oil sector output rose to 3.1 million barrels a day [b/d] compared with 2.9 million b/d for the preceding year. Oil exports rose from 1.8 b/d to 2.2 million. In the year 1369 the average price of oil rose to $20 a barrel. All in all the growth in value added by the oil sector in the year 1369 compared with the preceding year amounted to 7.50 percent at constant prices. This is an outstanding achievement.

In the industrial sector we have had a number of new policies aimed at liberalizing and facilitating production; these include facilities for imports of raw materials and parts and other needed equipment, the gradual abolition of regulations and rules on pricing and other controls. [repetitive passage omitted]. The index for the output of large industrial plants, which is among the most important indices for output in the country, achieved a growth of 25.3 percent in the first half of 1369. This growth was evident more in four branches of machinery—basic metals products, metal wares, and chemical materials and products than in other branches.

The important point here is that side by side with the 23.5 percent growth in the index of output there is a growth of 14.3 percent in the index of wages and salaries. This means that wages have gone up. There is also a growth of 1.6 percent in employment. All these three figures show that per capita efficiency and productivity in the production sector has gone up by 25 percent.

In the intermediates and light industries sector of 90 principal items of production, a total of 84 items have had growth rates ranging from 50 to 250 percent. The heavy industries sector scored a growth rate of 64 percent. Investment in industry shows growth. Public sector investment in the industrial sector amounts to 211 billion rials, up by 54 percent compared with the preceding year. The Bank San'at va Ma'dan [Industrial and Mining Bank] provided 150 billion rials in investment funds both in the form of facilities and in the form of investment, up by 70 percent compared with the preceding year and showing growth rates achieved in the industrial sector.

In the agricultral sector, the increase in the guaranteed support price for wheat as well as abolition of stabilized price—which meant that wheat farmers can sell their wheat on the free market, seeking the best price they can find—has led to an increase in the output of wheat. In the year 1369 we continued to place at the disposal of our dear farmers agricultural inputs at the official rate of foreign exchange, while banking facilties were also made available to them at preferential rates. Thus, the growth in value added of the agricultral sector amounted to 5 percent which is a very rare figure in the recent years. Of course that was mainly due to the increase in wheat ouput, amounting to over 7.5 million tons which is a very high figure.

In the same sector the Bank of Agriculture has provided 618 billion rials worth of facilities and other banks have provided 1.117 trillion rials worth of monetary facilities for farmers, which shows a 39 and 22 percent growth respectively.

In the financial sector, that is the government's budget, government revenues rose a great deal. We had a 77 percent growth and revenues reached 5.632 trillion rials. These revenues were mainly from oil, which increased by 45 percent; tax, which rose by 42 percent; and other

revenues, mainly due to the new policies on altering the exchange rate, which amounted to 2.256 trillion [rilas] of the total revenues.

Of course alongside the increase in government revenues we had a 46 percent increase in government payments and expenditure. Despite the increase in government payments, the government's budget deficit decreased considerably, so that it reached 675 billion [rials] in 1369 from 1.142 trillion in 1368, which is a very low figure and causes little inflation.

In the banks sector, the banks' credit facility was 2.1 trillion rials in 1369, in addition to which we specifically allocated 164 billion rials to earthquake victims.

In 1369 the interest rate given by banks on deposit accounts became more logical and was increased so that for the first time it exceeded the inflation rate. As a result the total amount of public deposits in the banks increased by 25 percent, reaching about 18.85 trillion, which is an extraordinary figure and shows the public's increased confidence in the banking system.

A very positive development in that period was that our cash in hand situation improved in favor of bank deposits, as it were; that is the amount of notes and coins in public hands fell by 1.5 percent. In our glowing economic years that 1.5 percent reached a maxmimum of 0.6 percent. We consider 1.5 percent to be very positive. Also the interest rates of banking facilities underwent some changes. Of course, those changes had a limited effect in curbing demand for facilities.

Regarding foreign exchange, the most important development in 1369 was the limiting of the various exchange rates to the three: 70 rials, 600 rials and floating. The competitive rates covered a wider scope. The areas covered by the floating rate were increased so that today we can import most of our required finished goods by obtaining foreign currency at the floating rate. These policies on the whole resulted in the domestic production of many products becoming economically viable. For when we applied the 600 rial or the floating exchange rate to imports it became more profitable for many of our manufacturers to manufacture the goods themselves.

Regarding the rate of exchange, one of our very significant successes was that the rate of exchange [between the Iranian rial and the U.S. dollar] was limited to between 135 tumans and 142 or 143 tumans. In view of the rate of inflation which we had in the years 68 and 69, we see that this rate of exchange has been stopped within very good limits. This demonstrates the strengthening of the value of our rial against foreign currencies. Also, we succeeded in limiting the fluctuations in the rate of exchange; so much so that in the year 68 the fluctuation in the rate of exchange was 49 percent, while in the year 69 the rate of fluctuation was limited to 18 percent. The same was true for the value of gold coins which was limited to about 13 percent.

Regarding the stock exchange we had an unprecedented success. The volume of transactions in the stock exchange reached 65 billion rials, which was six times larger than the previous year. In the field of exports, adopting policies such as exempting the imports of raw materials and spare parts needed for the manufacture of export items from all restrictive regulations, also by providing foreign exchange as working capital, foreign exchange loans, the cancellation of the limits on export credit, and introducing a floating rate for foreign currencies needed for export were among the important steps taken for [encouraging] exports. Replacing export certificates with foreign exchange repatriation undertakings was one of the most important developments in the field of exports. This caused our exports to increae by 40 percent compared to the previous year and to reach $1.4 billion. Our imports also increased by about 70 percent and reached $21.9 billion.

All of these remarkable and very positive developments are reflected in two major indicators: One is the gross national product which grew more than ten percent compared to the previous year in constant prices; the other is inflation which fell to nine percent in the year 69.

[Correspondent] Many of the people who are in daily contact with the bazaar in order to purchase goods and services believe that the rate of inflation in reducing their purchasing power has been much more than nine percent. How do you justify your figure of nine percent inflation?

['Adeli] With regard to the rate of inflation we should bear in mind that this rate of inflation has been nine percent compared to the year 68. In that year the inflation rate was 17.4 percent compared to the previous year when it was 28 percent. Nine percent inflation means that it has been on top of the 17.5 [as heard] percent of the previous year, and that 17.5 percent has been on top of the 28 percent. In other words, as our inflation has always been more than 25 percent and in recent years it has been falling, although the rate of inflation has fallen, yet it is like a weightlifter who feels greater difficulty with the latest weights added to his load, although they might have been less than the previous ones. We may feel to be under pressure, but this pressure is not due to the past year. During the past year the pressure was reduced. The continuous pressure of 25 or 28 percent inflation per year, was reduced to 17 [as heard] percent in the year 68 and then to nine percent.

However, these are like the latest weights added to the load. A weightlifter who lifts 250 kg has less difficulty with the first 200 kg compared to the last 10 kg. The rate is falling, and we hope that with other economic improvements which are being introduced we can gradually harness the inflation and, on top of that, people's purchasing power will be increased.

An important point here is that the goods which have been covered by new policies, such as household goods

and other commodities which are necessary parts of life, have all been reduced in prices, including iron, aluminum, goods needed for domestic consumption, cloth, and other items. However, regarding the foodstuff needed for people's daily lives, during the years 69 and 70 we devoted a greater volume of foreign exchange to them. Therefore, as the result of various policies which we are adopting in the field of distribution, transportation, and so on, they will also be put at the disposal of the people at a satisfactory level.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Official on Expected Iraqi Move on POW Exchange

LD1408090991 Tehran IRNA in English 0637 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Iran and Iraq have expressed willingness to hold talks on swapping the remaining prisoners of war (POW), and to trace out those said to be missing in action.

The leader's representative in charge of POWS affairs Hojjat ol- Eslam Ali Akbar Abu-torabi told IRNA Tuesday night that Iran expects the regime in Iraq to take the next step in this respect.

According to Abu-Torabi, Iraqi forces kidnapped a large number of Iranians at the outset of their aggression (September 1980) and also during its closing days (August 1988), and are holding them in secret camps.

Abu-Torabi who himself spent eight years in Iraqi POW camps, said that during his captivity, he managed to keep track of locations of eight secret camps through information received from fellow POWS who were being shifted from place to place, as well as from Iraqi guards.

Speaking on the first anniversary of the POW exchange, he said the international Red Cross has been informed of the locations of these secret camps in Iraq.

Foreign Ministry on New USSR Border Crossings

LD1408091991 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Astara Aug 14, IRNA—The northwestern towns of Astara and Jolfa on the Iran-Soviet frontier will soon become international border crossings, and will be equipped with all necessary facilities, according to a senior Foreign Ministry official.

On his return from Moscow, Mojtaba Mir-Mohammadi, deputy for consular affairs at the ministry told IRNA last night, that in addition the Bajgiran border point in northeastern Iran opposite the Soviet Turkmen town of Gavband will be open to frontiersmen on both sides for cross border travel from September this year.

According to the recent Iran-Soviet letter of understanding, he said, measures will be taken to facilitate issuance of visas for diplomatic representatives and academic, cultural and sport delegations, as well as truck and locomotive drivers.

Mir-Mohammadi said that during his talks with Soviet officials, understanding was reached on consular affairs and related affairs.

Pakistan

Premier Calls for Sanctions Against India

BK0908163891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Begum Atiya Enayatullah, the Kashmiri delegation leader at the Islamic foreign ministers conference, had a meeting with Hamid al-Gabid, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, in Istanbul. She apprised the secretary general of the brutalities perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir. She said the occupied valley's Islamic identity and culture and civilization are being destroyed, the commercial life of the people has been paralyzed, villages are being set on fire, and Muslim women are being molested.

Begum Atiya Enayatullah also delivered a personal message from Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan to the secretary general, calling upon the ICO member-nations to impose economic sanctions against India if it continues to deny the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people.

The ICO secretary general assured the Kashmiri delegation that his organization is making serious efforts to help the Kashmiri people achieve their right of self-determination as envisaged in the relevant UN resolutions. He also assured the delegation of humanitarian assistance for the Kashmiri people uprooted by Indian oppression and brutalities not only from the ICO but also from other humanitarian organizations. The delegation extended an invitation from the Azad Kashmir prime minister to the ICO secretary general who said that he would visit Azad Kashmir as soon as possible.

Khan Elected Azad Kashmir President

BK1108162291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference was elected unopposed the new president of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] at a sitting of the AJK legisative assembly and Jammu and Kashmir council in Muzaffarabad today. He got all 43 votes polled.

JKLF Leader Calls for Pakistani Support

BK1308142691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13 (AFP)—A top militant leader waging an indepedence from India movement in

Kashmir urged Pakistan on Tuesday to base its role in Kashmir on the model of Chinese and Soviet intervention in Vietnam. Amanullah Khan, chief of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), said he was opposed to a military confrontation between India and Pakistan as it would not resolve the problem.

"We are opposed to a war" unlike some compatriot groups which he said "deceived the Kashmiri nation that tanks would come from Islamabad" to supplement their movement.

"All we expect from Pakistan is the role of a supporting nation like China and the Soviet Union did in Vietnam," he told a news conference here. He said the two countries did not send their armies to help North Vietnam in its war against the U.S.-backed government in the south. The anti-U.S. struggle succeeded because of "moral and material support" from China and the Soviet Union, he said.

Khan, whose JKLF is one of the major groups spearheading the independence movement, slammed Islamabad's policy on Kashmir.

The Kashmiris have suffered under the Indian yoke for more than 40 years because the Pakistani bureaucracy projected the Kashmir issue as a "territorial dispute" between India and Pakistan, he said.

Since their 1947 independence the two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir. A United Nations commission in 1948 called for a plebiscite to determine which country the people of northern Himalayan state want to join.

Khan said JKLF was opposed to Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. He accused some pro-Pakistan groups in the valley of obstructing the JKLF's independence movement.

Islamabad's opposition to an independent Kashmnir on the pretext that it would cut off Pakistan from China was "very selfish and unjust," he added. He said his party was not opposed to Pakistan and if a majority of the people voted for Pakistan "we would accept the will of Kashmiri people."

Acknowledging dissention, he called on all groups to do away with differences and "put up a united struggle against usurpers of our right to determine our own future."

Welcoming recent support from some British and American lawmakers of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, the JKLF chief expressed his optimism that "growing international recognition of the issue will bring the solution closer."

Head of the JKLF's political wing Zahid Amin Kashif, who recently conducted a three-week secret tour of Indian-administered Kashmir, said India should break ground for a settlement.

"Kashmiris are not prepared to wait for another 40 years," he said warning that New Delhi "will have to pay unimaginably high price for perpetrating savagery."

Accusing India of trampling on human rights, he said youths were no longer seen on streets. Fearing torture, they have fled or joined the independence movement, Kashif said.

"Kashmir has become a place for old men and women only," he said.

Night raids and gang rapes by Indian security forces were common, he alleged. People have stopped highlighting this and even victims hide it because of social reasons, Kashif said.

Houses and markets are set on fire to force people to surrender under economic pressure, he said, adding that the JKLF youths have suffered heavy casualties and its top leader Yasin Malik, the "brain behind the movement, was in Agra jail."

He was the first to reject the Indian offer of greater autonomy and since then many JKLF area commanders were killed, tortured and kidnapped, Kashif said.

Report of 7,000 Kashmiri Policemen Detained

BK1308161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] In Pakistan occupied Kashmir, the dismissed prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, has said that 7,000 Kashmiri policemen have been detained at the Dalai camp in Muzaffarabad. Opposition parties have demanded their release and immediate withdrawal of Pakistani police units from the territory. Mr. Abdul Qayyum Khan, who has been foisted as prime minister in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, however, claimed that the Kashmiri policemen are being kept in different camps for training purposes. He denied that this is illegal detention.

Bhutto Issues 'Secret Report' on Arms License

BK1208071191 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 12 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Lahore—Former Prime Minister and Co-Chairperson of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Ms Benazir Bhutto, has issued what is described as the secret report of Military Intelligence Directorate about the action taken by Sindh government against arms licence. The report was handed over to newsmen at Lahore airport where she reached from Karachi on Sunday evening.

According to the report, "reliable sources said that arms licences are being issued to MQM [Muhaj Jirqaumi Movement] activists and others who possessed illicit weapons. During the first week of July, the Chief Minister of Sindh issued 6,000 licences for Karachi Division. All the licences were handed over to Vice Chairman MQM, Mr Saleem Shahzad, as many as 2,500 out of these 6,000 licences were issued on July 10.

"The Chief Minister [CM] of Sindh issued 7,500 licences on July 15. During July 1 and 9, 1,300 licences had been

issued for interior Sindh. Some were given to deserters of PPP who would be used against the PPP."

The report further said that the Adviser to CM Irfanullah Marwat had issued 1,400 arms licences to the activists of Punjabi Pashtoon Ittehad.

Nuclear Program Considered Matter of 'Honor'

BK1208071891 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Aug 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Honor Is Not for Sale"]

[Text] Predictably, the retiring United States ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Robert Oakley, has once again engaged himself in his professional task of promoting policies which he knows the people of Pakistan look upon with grave unease. The point where he lets the cat out of the bag is his attempt to seduce Pakistan by quoting Egypt's example—of taking the leap at US bidding and receiving the possession of the Sinai desert strip as a prize. This is a very deceptive game. The correct name for it is "Camp David". Quite a few aspects of Mr Oakley's advocacy are examples of trying to prescribe panaceas while actually dispensing nothing better than low potency anaesthesia. The results of Egypt's fall into the Camp David trap, that is, going into negotiations with blind faith in the impartiality and good intentions of the United States, are by now too manifestly unattractive to persuade anyone to walk into the fool's paradise with eyes open.

Egypt and the Arabs are total losers. Egypt's recovery of the tiny desert spot called Sinai is at best a bad joke. This must be the most costly piece of desert in the whole of the Arab world and in the whole of Arab history, too. By the Camp David deal, what Egypt got in the first place was getting thrown out of the Arab family as nothing better than plague. Egypt remained a despised entity for years and the opportunist leader who got Egypt into that trap had to pay for the mistake with his life. That was what going into negotiations blindfolded meant for a start. What followed, by foreseeable stages, brought the entire Arab world to the state of fecklessness it is in today. And it was precisely for this purpose Camp David was conceived and rammed down the throat of Egypt, then the most sustainable of Arabs. Why are we the target of all Western venom? The Pressler Amendment and the vendetta against BCCI are links of the same chain. We are under attack because we are a Muslim entity with the spine still intact. That must be broken. Nobody is afraid of our nuclear prowess. Nobody knows better than the US that our nuclear accomplishments menace nobody. That's the excuse to bring us down on our knees, fall in the queue of the vanquished Arabs and bow to the Zionist entity.

Has the world ever witnessed the cynical manner in which poisoned rubbish is being heaped upon Pakistan and some outstanding Pakistani attainments as now churned up by the US media and carbon-copied in most of the West? This is not political stuff, this is not at all a case of political disagreement between two countries or between points of legitimately held principles. This is a conspiracy against Pakistan because this country is considered—and so far quite correctly—as one of the few Muslim units in the world who have refused to be bought and sold as dumb, driven cattle. Sign on the dotted line and ask for what you want. Doesn't the primadonna of Camp David get billions and also bet billions written off?

The simple question now is are we willing to give away the jewel of our sovereignty for the trinket offered in terms of resumed loans at killing interest rates? Our nuclear programme is not a weapon of attack. It is now our honour. Let us hope our governments would continue to say it is not for sale.

India's Military Buildup Viewed

BK1108050891 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 11 Aug 91 p 6

[Editorial: "India's Military Buildup"]

[Text] An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman has reportedly warned Pakistan to desist from raising the Kashmir issue at international forums. Whether the extraordinary military build-up that India has undertaken in Rajasthan is intended to give this warning a more menacing tone, is not yet clear, but the coincidence does raise doubts about Indian intentions. Deploying four divisions of the army close to Pakistan's border, digging trenches, laying ten feet wide barbed wire fencing, erecting special posts, does look like war preparations. And this seems more in response to the call given by the OIC to Pakistan and India, to withdraw their forces to peacetime position, than to any tangible threat from Pakistan. When India itself has not pointed to any warlike activity in this sector from the Pakistan's side, and has not offered any other explanation for what it is doing, the only explanation that seems plausible is that it is intended to cow down Pakistan and to bring some kind of a prcessure to bear on it to change its stand on Kashmir. That Pakistan is not likely to succumb to this pressure and this show of strength on India's part will only exacerbate relations, is obvious. It seems that India is trying to tell Pakistan that unless it stops supporting the Kashmiri freedom-fighters, which according to them amounts to interference in India's internal affairs, India will counter that by delivering a punch in Pakistan's soft underbelly in Sindh. In other words India is saying that if Pakistan thinks that India is vulnerable in Kashmir then India thinks that Pakistan is vulnerable in Sindh.

This equation, if it is intended to be one, suffers from many flaws. One, that Kashmir is a disputed territory to which Pakistan is a party, Sindh is neither a disputed territory, nor is it vulnerable. And another that Pakistan is not seeking a military solution of Kashmir, as India seems to be. Pakistan's bonafides are evident from the fact that it is sending its Foreign Secretary to New Delhi to talk about bilateral issues. The highest quarters in

Pakistan have also shown little belligerence, despite the reign of terror that India has let loose on Kashmiri men, women and children. Although India refuses to see it, actually at the root of the trouble is India's repudiation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir. One knows why Pandit Nehru had blinkers on his eyes in the case of Kashmir—his ancestors came from there—but there is no reason why his successors should sufffer from such a hangup. They are just wasting their tie and their scarce financial resources on something, which is clerly illegitimate in the eyes of the world and in which they are bound to lose, sooner or later.

Cabinet Approves Holding Talks With India

BK1008133391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The federal cabinet today approved to hold talks with India on the outstanding issues at the level of foreign secretaries and send a delegation to New Delhi on the 19th of this month. The cabinet which met in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also approved the agreements between Pakistan and India regarding advance notice of military exercises and troops movement and prevention of airspace violations and for permission of overflights and landing of military aircraft. The foreign secretary briefed the cabinet on the current state of Pakistan-India relationship and progress relating to the political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and recent tripartite talks on it. [passage omitted]

Sharif Accuses Opposition of Negative Politics

BK1308155191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has expressed the determination that a unique place in the community of nations will be carved out for the country through hard work and dedication to purpose. Addressing a function marking the launching of the rainy season tree-planting drive at Bhulband in Murree today, he said after assuming the reins of power, his government has done everything possible with a patriotic and missionary zeal to rebuild the nation. He expressed the hope that problems will gradually be solved and their efforts will be crowned with success. Emphasizing the need for tree planting, the prime minister said nature has endowed the country with many beautiful areas and the government and the people should pay full attention to protecting this natural beauty.

Later talking to newspersons, the prime minister said the people have rejected opposition parties because of their negative stand and undemocratic methods. He said he would always welcome positive and constructive criticism. He regretted that the opposition is indulging in negative politics, but asserted that if the opposition continued to adopt this attitude, he would confront them.

When asked to comment on the all-party conference, he said he does not think it merits any attention, because it is neither important for the people nor for the press.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Guns 'Silenced' at Elephant Pass 12 Aug

BK1308114291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] guns were silenced at Elephant Pass yesterday, the first time since 10 July when the terrorists began their abortive siege on the security forces camp at the southern end of Jaffna Peninsula. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE, driven further from the extended northern and southern defense locality of the Elephant Pass camp on Sunday [11 August] after they made a weak attempt to infiltrate the Balawegaya task force line, midway between the beach head at Wettilekeni and the Elephant Pass camp. The sources said troops were building up the defenses in the south of Elephant Pass after destroying all enemy strong points.

Meanwhile, a news dispatch received by LANKAPUVATH from Delhi said that according to Indian press reports 500 LTTE terrorists have been imprisoned in Tamil Nadu. The state government has asked the central government for 750 AK-47 automatic rifles and 100,000 rounds of ammunition to arm a special task force with commando units to combat LTTE activities.